



This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

### Usage guidelines

Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

We also ask that you:

- + *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.
- + *Refrain from automated querying* Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.
- + *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.
- + *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

### About Google Book Search

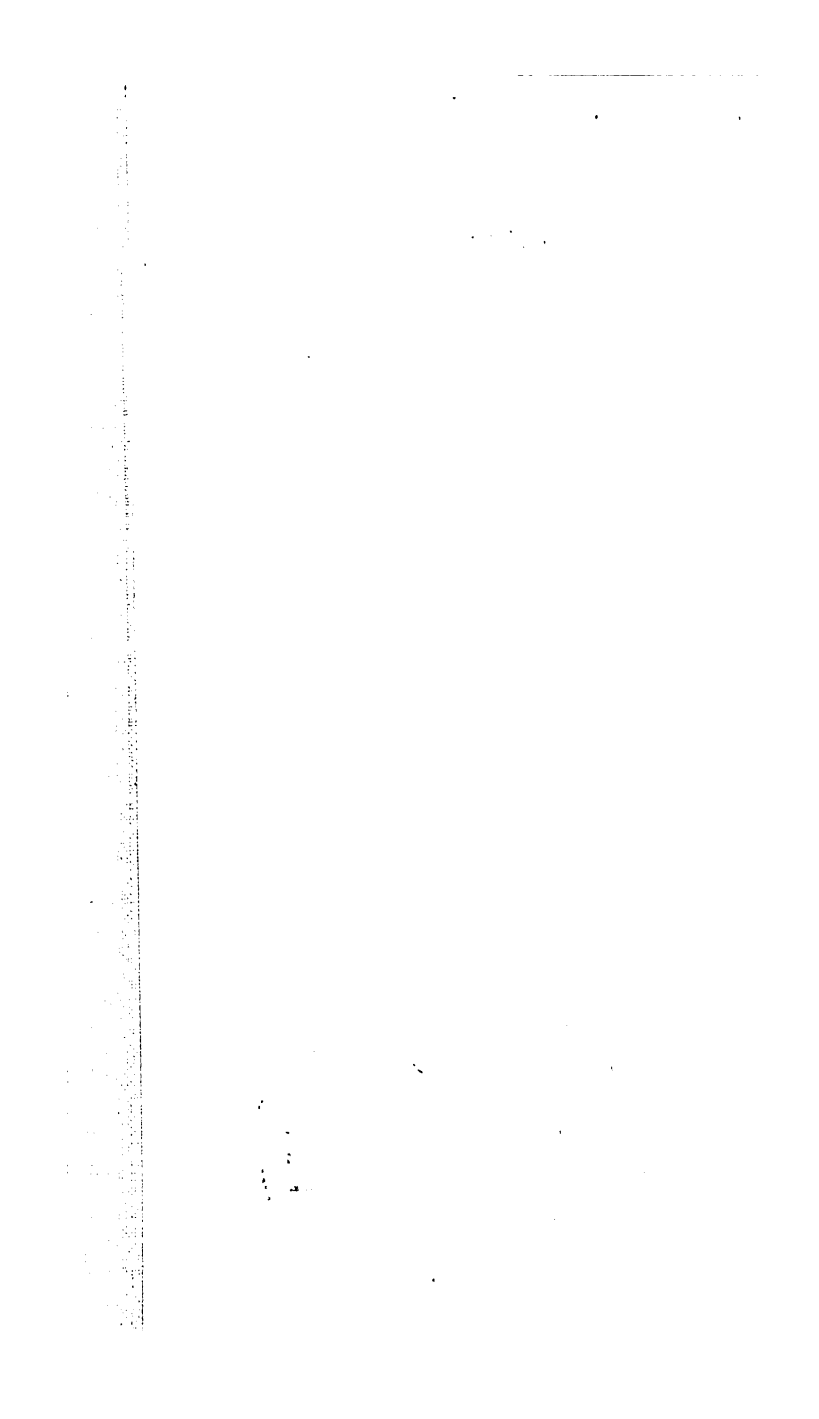
Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at <http://books.google.com/>

NYPL RESEARCH LIBRARIES

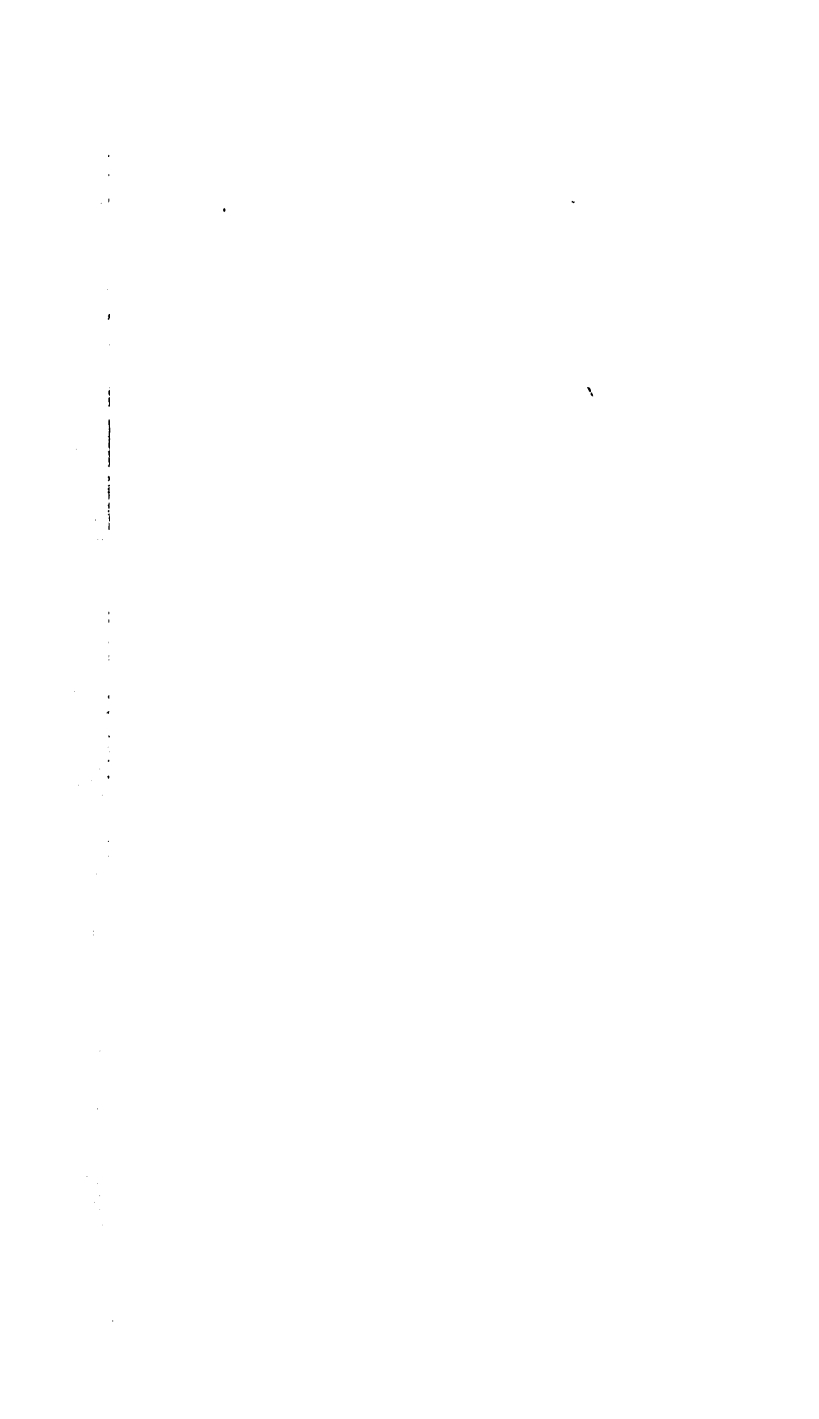


3 3433 07588207 0





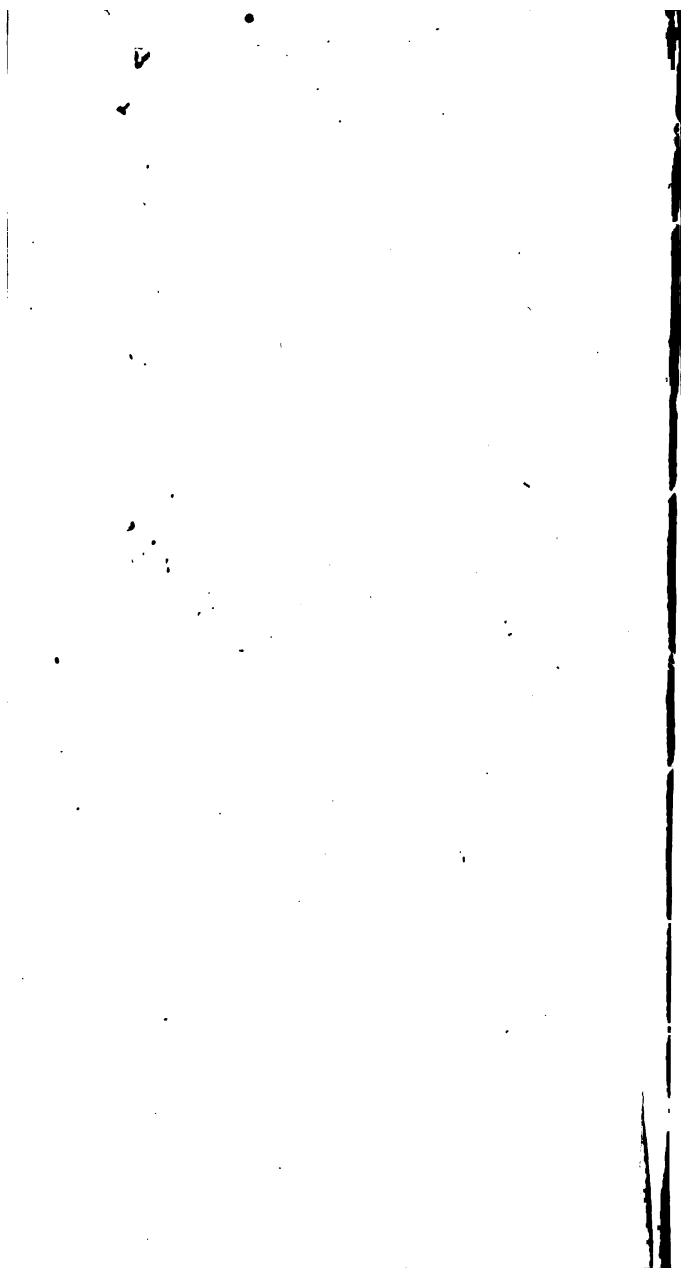






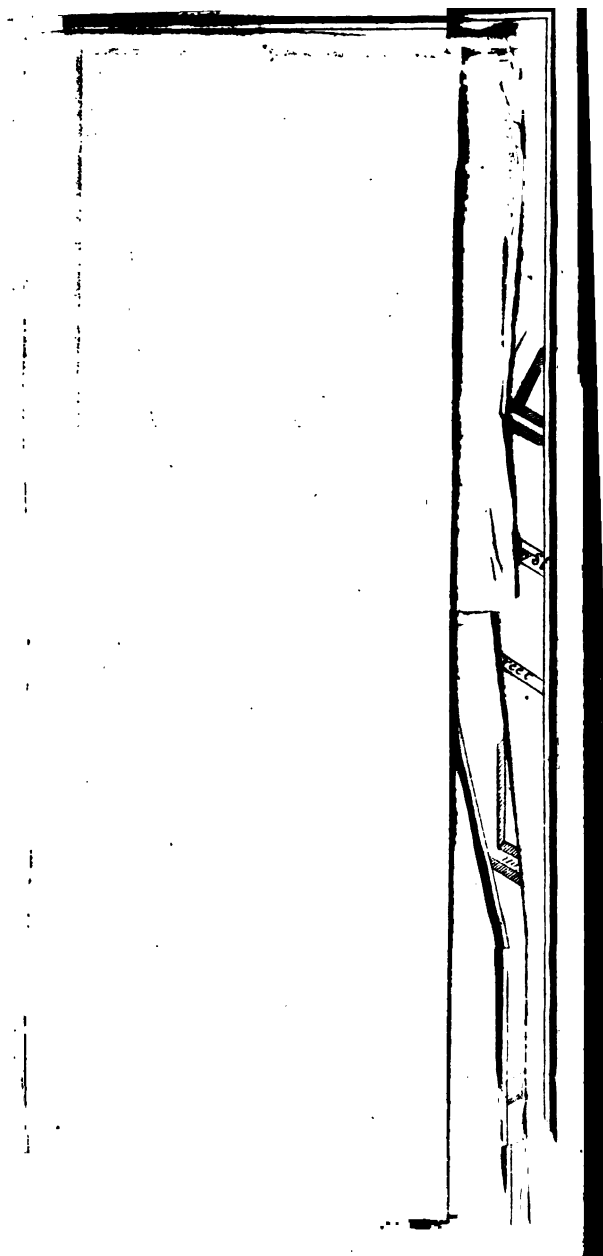
LOB  
Leicester  
Watts





8

1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10.



192.122  
215 12

A  
**Walk through Leicester;**

BEING  
A GUIDE TO STRANGERS:  
CONTAINING  
A DESCRIPTION  
OF  
THE TOWN AND ITS ENVIRONS,  
WITH REMARKS UPON ITS  
HISTORY AND ANTIQUITIES.

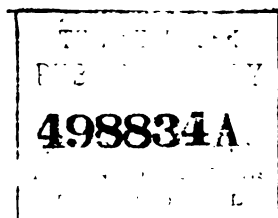
4

SECOND EDITION, WITH ADDITIONS.

From the Works of Shakespeare.  
"Within this hour it will be dinner time,  
"Till that I'll view the manners of the town,  
"Peruse its traders, gaze upon its buildings,  
"And then return and sleep within mine inn."  
SHAKESPEARE.

LEICESTER:  
PRINTED BY AND FOR T. COMBE;  
and sold by  
LONGMAN, HURST, REES, ORME, AND BROWN,  
PATERNOSTER ROW, LONDON.  
1820.

1



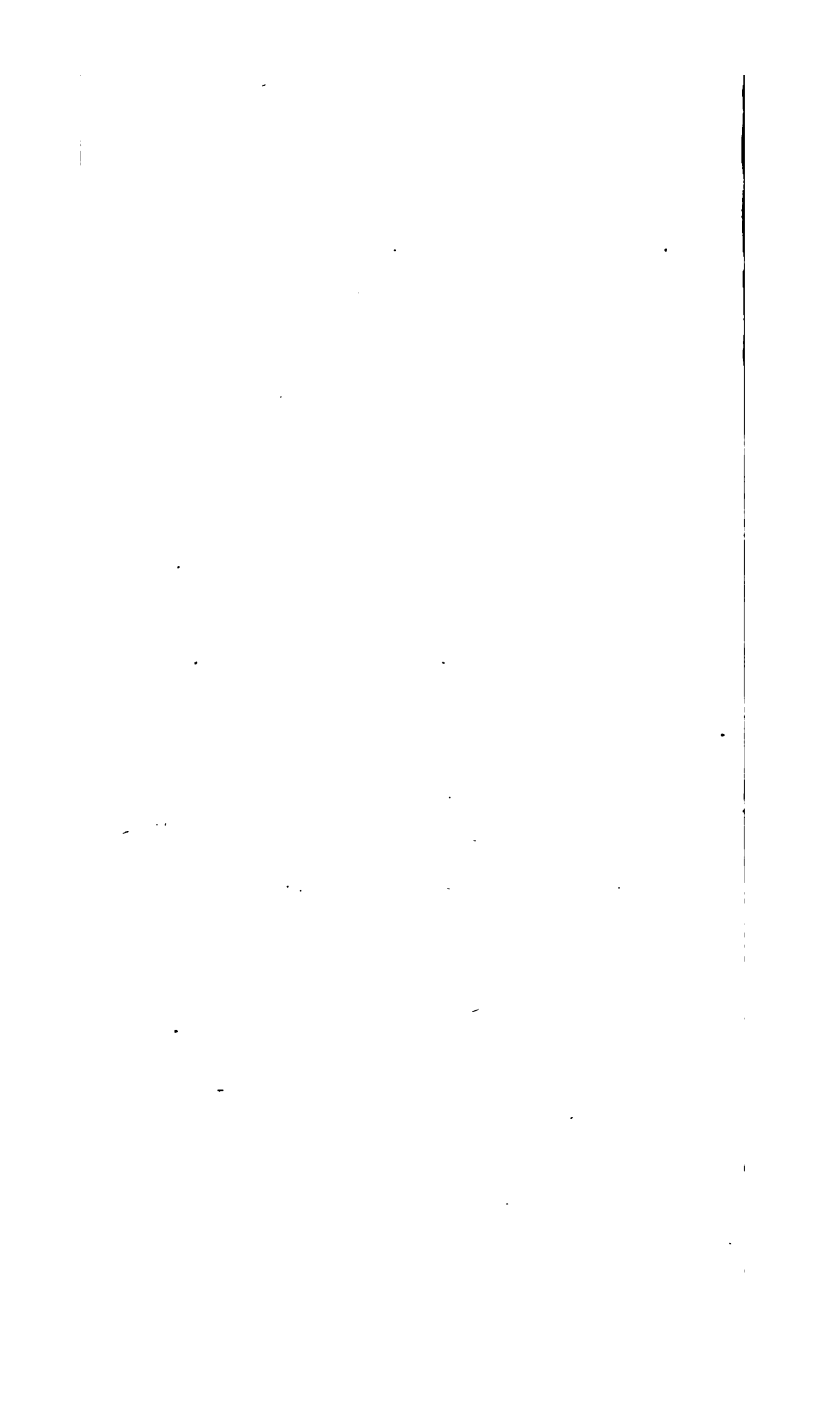
## ADDRESS.



*The Editor of the following pages, while he has been solicitous to furnish those who travel with a **POCKET CICERONE**, feels at the same time a wish that it may not be unacceptable to those who are at home. The latter, though, in the subject of this survey, they trace an old, a familiar scene, will still feel that it possesses that interest which the native spot binds around the mind ; and when they point out to their intelligent visitors and curious friends the most memorable objects of their ancient and honourable Town, it is the Editor's wish that this little companion may be found useful ; he, therefore, while he rejoices in their support and feels their liberality, inscribes it with respect and gratitude,*

TO THE

INHABITANTS OF LEICESTER.



A

**WALK THROUGH LEICESTER.**

---

**TO** the traveller who may wish to visit whatever is deemed most worthy of notice in the town of Leicester, the following sketch is devoted. And as the highly cultivated state of topographical knowledge renders superficial remark unpardonable in local description, we shall endeavour to produce, at the various objects of our visit, such information and reflections as a conductor, not wholly uninformed, may be expected to offer to the curious and intelligent visitor, while he guides him through a large, commercial, and, we trust, a respectable town ; the capital of a province which can honestly boast, that by its rich pasturage, its flocks and herds, it assists in supplying England with the blessings of agricultural fertility ; and by the industry of its framework-knitters, affords an article that quickens and extends the operations of commerce.



We now request our good-humoured stranger to accept of such our guidance ; whether he be the tourist, whose object of enquiry is general information — or the man of reflection, who, wherever he goes, whether into crowded towns or solitary fields, finds something to engage his meditation — or the mercantile rider, who, when the business of his commissions is transacted, quits his lonely parlour for a stroll through the streets — we shall endeavour to bring before his eye as much of interest as our scenes will afford : and as for the diligent antiquary, we assure him we will make the most of our Roman remains ; and we hope he will not quarrel with the rough forest stones of our streets, when we promise him they shall conduct him to the smoother pavement of Roman mosaic.

What may have been the name of the town we are about to traverse, before the establishment of the Romans, cannot be ascertained ; for the Britons had no written monuments, and it cannot be expected that tradition should have survived the revolutions, which, since that period, have taken place in this island. King Leir, and whatever surmises may have been founded on the similarity between his name and the present name of the place, may safely be left to those who are more fond of the flights of conjecture than the solid arguments of truth.

After the establishment of the Romans, Leicester became one of their most important stations ; and

was known, (as is ascertained by the inscription on the Roman milestone) by the name, *RATA*. It was one of the stipendiary cities, had two magistrates resembling consuls, as well as censors, ædiles, questors and augurs; its inhabitants living according to the customs of Rome and speaking the latin language. It continued a city when subsequently possessed by the Saxons, till the year 874, when the Danes having defeated Burrhed, the last king of Mercia, Ceolred, the 7th and last of the Saxon bishops of Leicester, transferred his see to Dorchester. Our city was subject to the Danes till 920, when it was reduced to the power of the martial heroine Ethelfleda, wife of Ethelred duke of Mercia, and daughter of the glorious Alfred, and flourished as a Saxon earldom till, with the rest of the Island, it fell before the conquering Normans. Such vicissitudes of alternate splendour and subjugation has Leicester undergone together with more celebrated cities. That it rose slowly to its present respectability may be seen from a remark of the celebrated EVELYN, who, in his *Diary*\* speaks of "the old and ragged city of Leicester, large and pleasantly situated, but despicably built, y<sup>e</sup> chimney flues like so many smith's forges."

Under the Saxon dynasty it obtained the name of *LEICESTER*, compounded of *castrum*, or *cester*, from its having been a Roman military station, and *leag*,

\* Evelyn's *Memoirs*, by Bray, vol. 1, p. 283. — Evelyn lived in the reign of Charles II.

or *lea*, a pasture surrounded by woods, for such was anciently the scite of the town. This name it has preserved, with less alteration in the mode of spelling than almost any other town in the kingdom, through the barbarous reigns of the Saxon kings, the oppressive system of the feudal times, the dark gloom of monkish superstition, and the fatal revolutions occasioned by the civil commotions of later ages.

Such is, most probably, the true etymology of the name of the place we are now proceeding to survey; for which purpose we will suppose the visitor to set forward from the Three Crowns Inn, along a straight wide street, called

#### GALLOWTREE-GATE,

(corruptly pronounced *Goltre*), from its having formerly led to the place of execution, the left side of which is the ancient city walls.

At the bottom of this street, a building, formerly the assembly room, but now converted to purposes of trade, with a piazza, under which is a machine for weighing coals, forms the centre of five considerable streets. The

#### HUMBERSTONE-GATE,

on the right, leads to a range of new and handsome dwellings, called SPA-PLACE, from a chalybeate spring found there, which, though furnished by the

proprietor with neat marble baths and every convenient appendage for bathing, has not been found sufficiently impregnated with mineral properties to bring it into use. The Humberstone-gate is out of the local limits of the borough, and subject to the concurrent jurisdiction of the county and borough magistrates; though in the reigns of Edward VI. and Elizabeth, attempts were made to bring it exclusively under the magisterial power of the town. It is part of the manor possessed by the Bishops of Lincoln, in the twelfth century, and is still called the *Bishop's Fee*.

Southward from the Humberstone-gate to the Goltre-gate, very considerable additions, consisting of several streets, have lately been made to the town; the principal ones are Rutland-street, Charles-street, and Halford-street.

Advancing forward, the visitor, on passing the weighing machine, enters

#### BELGRAVE-GATE,

a street of considerable extent, in the broader part of which stands what may justly be deemed one of the most valuable curiosities of the place; it is a *Milliare*, or Roman mile-stone, forming part of a small obelisk. This stone was discovered in 1771, by some workmen, digging to form a rampart for a new turnpike-road from Leicester to Melton, upon the foss road leading to Newark, and at the distance

of two miles from Leicester. Antiquarians allow it to be the oldest *milliare* now extant in Britain ; and perhaps the inscription upon it is older than most others that have been found upon altars, or other monuments of Roman antiquity in this island. It is about three feet long, and between five and six in circumference. The inscription, when the abbreviations are filled up, may be read thus —

Imperator Cæsar,  
Divi Trajani Parthici Filius Divus,  
Trajanus Hadrianus Augustus,  
Potestate IV. Consulatu III. A Ratis  
II.

Hadrian Trajanus Augustus,  
Emperor & Cæsar, the son of the most  
illustrious Trajan Parthicus,  
In the 4th year of his reign, and his 3d consulate.  
From Ratæ (Leicester) 2 miles.

Such is the inscription on this *milliare*, which our industrious antiquaries seem faithfully to have extracted from among the ruins of time, and the injuries of accident ; an object, which exhibits a curious instance of the civilization introduced by the Roman arms into this island ; for the erection of marks to denote the distance from place to place, is an accommodation, at least to the travelling stranger, which unpolished nations never devised ; and which

the inhabitants of Britain never generally enjoyed from the final departure of the Roman legions, till the last century, when mile-stones were again erected along our principal turnpike-roads. The unlearned visitor, it is confessed, will be apt to view, with some degree of disappointment, the object of which we are speaking, and about which much busy conjecture and learned antiquarian research has been employed; for indeed, its appearance is neither singular nor striking, the engraving being but slight, and the letters rudely formed. But the ingenious observer will esteem it a valuable curiosity; not only because it clears up the long doubted question, whether the *RATÆ* of Antoninus's Itinerary\* was the present Leicester, but because it is one of those objects which assist the reflecting mind in connecting the past with the present; and, by confirming from sen-

\* 6th March—in Antoninus's Itinerary.

	MILES
Verulamio .... Verulam,.....	21
Durocobrovis.. Dunstable, .....	12
Magiovinio ... Magiovin .....	12
Lactodoro .... Stony Stratford .....	16
Isannovatia ... Wedon .....	12
Tripontia ..... Towcester .....	12
Vennonis ..... High Cross, Cleycester,	9
RATIS..... LEICESTER .....	12
Verometo .... Burrow .....	13
Margidano ... Belvoir.....	13
Ad Pontem ... Paunton .....	7
Crococalana .. Ancaster.....	7
Lindo..... Lincoln .....	12

sible evidence the records of history, give greater weight and effect to the lessons she may teach.

The situation in which this stone is at present placed, has often been thought improper ; and it certainly is exposed to injuries from the playful wantonness of children, and is so little conspicuous from its place in the obelisk, that nothing appears necessarily to attract the attention of the stranger. A situation more private, though not wholly so, would be more proper ; such a one as the garden of the Infirmary would afford : it would there have all the publicity the curious could wish, and all the security the antiquary could desire.

Our visitor, continuing his walk along this street, which, as he probably will know, is on the great road from the metropolis to the north-west part of the kingdom, arrives at a scene of busy traffic. Here, among numbers of newly-erected dwellings, (proofs of the increasing population of the town) is the public and principal wharf on the navigable canal, near which is an iron-foundry. This canal was formed, in consequence of a bill passed in 1791, for the purpose of opening a communication with the Loughborough canal, and through that, with the various navigations united to the Trent. The line of the canal from Leicester to Loughborough is near sixteen miles in extent, and serves to supply Leicester with coal, lime, and the greater part of all the other heavy articles, which the consumption of a

place, containing nearly thirty thousand inhabitants, requires.

The rates of tonnage, from Loughborough to Leicester, are—

For coals, ..... 1s 8d per ton.

For iron, timber, &c. .... 2s 6d per ton.

But coals passing into the Leicestershire and Northamptonshire Union Canal, pay 1s. 2d. per ton only, and certain drawbacks are allowed in favor of the more distant trade. The quantities of articles conveyed by the Leicester Navigation are calculated to be nearly as follows :—

tons.

Coals consumed annually in Leicester and its vicinity, and on the line of the navigation, 56,000

Ditto forwarded to other canals, ..... 59,000

Merchandise, ..... 11,500

Thus, whether we consider the saving of corn, &c. consumed by the horses employed in land carriage, the comparative cheapness of the conveyance, or the improved state of our roads relieved from such heavy weights, it must be acknowledged that this canal adds more than might have been expected to the convenience of Leicester, and the greater part of its county. Indeed, these *water-roads*, as navigable canals may be termed, reflect the greatest honour on the ingenuity of man, exemplified in their formation; and prove most strikingly to the thinking mind, how boundless are the advantages of civilized life, and how inviolable the security afforded to property by laws, wisely framed and judiciously enforced.



The view from this spot, across the Abbey Meadow, extending on the opposite side of the canal, with the ruins of the Devonshire mansion, commonly termed the *Abbey*, from its being the scite of the monastery of *St. Mary de Pratis*, will, by most visitors, be considered, at least, as very pleasing; but as we mean to conduct our traveller to that place, we shall, at present, forbear to particularize it.

We shall immediately, along a lane, called Arch-deacon's Lane, about the middle of which is a Meeting-house, with a small burial ground, belonging to the General Baptists, guide our stranger to

#### ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH.

This structure is rendered venerable by its tower, whose pinnacles and trefoil-work, with the niche, or tabernacle, on the corner of the south wall of the church, would have ever shown it, had not its date been confirmed by Bishop Alnwick's register, 1444, to have been the work of the era of the regular gothic. From this tower, a ring of ten bells, well known for their excellence, sound in frequent peals of harmony along the meadow and river below.

This, when the other churches of Leicester were given to the abbey by Robert Bossu, was annexed as a prebend to the cathedral of Lincoln, by the bishops of that diocese to whom it then belonged. The right of presentation is vested in the person holding the prebend, and the parish, with the neighbour-

ing dependent parish of Knighton, is exempted from the jurisdiction of the Archdeacon of Leicester, and is subject to a peculiar ecclesiastical jurisdiction, which is exercised by the Prebendary of the Church or his Surrogate. The Prebend is in the gift of the Bishop of the Diocese, who inhibits the officers of the peculiar court from exercising their wonted jurisdiction during the period of his episcopal visitation. The inside of the church is handsome; the nave and side aisles are supported by gothic arches, whose beauty and symmetry are not concealed by awkward galleries. The organ was erected by the parishioners in 1773.

Several elegant modern monuments adorn the walls, and in the north aisle is the alabaster tomb of Bishop Penny, many years abbot of the neighbouring monastery of St. Mary de Pratis. In the church-yard the military trophies of a black tomb commemorate Andrew Lord Rollo. This nobleman was an instance of the attraction which a martial life affords to an elevated mind, for he entered the service at the age of forty, when generally the habits and inclinations of life are so fixed, as scarcely to admit any change. After many years of severe and dangerous services, he died at Leicester, as the inscription informs us, on his way to Bristol, for the recovery of his health, 1765.\*

\* The population within the parish of St. Margaret has increased so much of late years, that it is intended to erect an

It is to be observed of this and the other churches in this place, that the entrance is by a descent of several steps ; a circumstance proving incontestibly, that the ground without has been considerably raised, since no reason could induce the founders of these sacred edifices to sink the floors beyond the natural level ; nor is the surface of the church-yards alone, higher than the floors of the churches ; so caused by the continued interment of the dead : but the general level of the pavements of the streets is also higher ; from which it must be inferred, that the ground on which the present houses are built has been every where raised, and that very considerably. That the rubbish produced by buildings, and particularly the consumption of fuel, should produce this effect, is what any one may readily believe ; and the Bishop of Llandaff calculates in his Chemical Essays, that the quantity of coal consumed annually in London, would raise an area of ten miles square, a full inch.

additional church within the same, under the late act for building churches in populous parishes. It appears from a report presented to the District Board of the Archdeaconry, by their secretary, (Mr. Stockdale Hardy) that the population of this parish was estimated in November, 1818, at 13,000 souls, and that its church could hold little more than 1,200 persons. A subscription has been since opened to furnish the means of purchasing a scite for the intended new church, which is expected to be commenced erecting in the course of the ensuing spring, as the report of the secretary of the District Board has been confirmed and adopted by the Board of Actuaries and His Majesty's Commissioners.

But notwithstanding it may safely be affirmed that a much greater quantity of fuel is at present consumed, and more rubbish produced annually in Leicester, than at any other period whatever, yet the seeming paradox may easily be proved, that little, if any alteration in the level of the town is made now. For the demand of all the refuse of the yards for the purposes of agriculture, and the ordinary attention paid to sweeping the streets, prevent any accumulation of soil: the change of level then, of which our churches afford such indubitable proofs, can only have taken place when the streets were unpaved, and made the receptacle of every kind of offal from the houses; and when the yards, uncleared for the purposes of improved agriculture, were choaked by accumulated filth; the whole almost ever yielding in abundance those noxious steams, the loathsome causes of pestilences, which, in former days, frequently proved the scourges of our larger towns, and too often spread their contagion to the villages. Hence the entrance into our churches, among other good sentiments, may excite in the reflective mind, a gratitude for the improved comforts the inhabitants of large towns now enjoy; and the same circumstances may also call forth the exertions of benevolence to promote still greater cleanliness, and to remove from the habitations of man those effects of filthiness, which, in proportion to their extent, are always offensive, and sometimes fatal.

Westward from this church-yard, extends a street straight and wide, but meanly built, called

### SANVY-GATE.

Here nothing can be traced worthy of observation, except the etymologist stops to glean the remark that *sanvy* is derived from *sancta via*, the ancient name of the street, so denominated from the solemn procession that passed through it on Whit-Monday, in its way from St. Mary's to St. Margaret's. In this procession the image of the Virgin was carried under a canopy, with an attendant minstrel and harp, accompanied by representatives of the twelve apostles, each denoted by the name of the sacred character he personated, written on parchment, fixed to his bonnet; these were followed by persons bearing banners, and the virgins of the parish. Among other oblations they presented in St. Margaret's church two pair of gloves, one for the Deity, and one for St. Thomas of India.

The stranger, having visited St. Margaret's church, may proceed up the

### CHURCH-GATE,

about the middle of which was formerly an area of an acre and a half, given by Queen Elizabeth to the freemen of Leicester, for the practice of public sports, and especially archery; whence, from the butts, or shooting marks erected in it, it was called *Butt-close*.

There is good reason to believe that plots of ground were once destined to the like purposes in almost every village, and butts erected for the practice of that art, to which several of the most important victories of the English were certainly owing. The use of the *arbalest*, or cross-bow, was certainly very antient in Europe, and was the weapon that proved fatal to Harold at the battle of Hastings : but the long bow was not familiar to the English, or, perhaps, not known in Europe, till the return of Edward the First from the Holy Land, where he became sensible of its superior advantages from his conflicts with the Saracens.

From this period till the time of Charles the First, frequent orders were issued by the kings, and acts of parliament were passed, enforcing and regulating the exercise of the long bow. Persons of all ages, from seven years old and upwards, were obliged by penalties to appear at stated times, each with his bow of a length equal to his own height, and, at least, a brace of arrows, to try his skill and strength before the butts near their respective places of residence ; and by a statute of Henry the Eighth, no one under twenty-four was allowed to shoot at any mark, at a less distance than eleven score, or 220 yards, a distance of greater length than the *Butt-close* : but it is certain that the adjoining orchard once formed part of it, and other encroachments may have been made on it, probably at the north end.

The great execution that may be done by the bow, from the rapidity of its discharges, and the confusion a flight of arrows is likely to occasion, especially among cavalry, has inclined some to contend that it is a weapon in excellence superior to the musket. But the difficulty of procuring, in any great quantity, the proper wood for the formation of bows, the expense of arrows, and, above all, the long practice and training, even from infancy, necessary to form an archer capable of drawing *an arrow a cloth-yard long*,\* will ever secure the preference to the latter weapon, which, though as commonly used, perhaps less certain of hitting the mark, is however capable of doing much execution at double the distance to which the bow will carry.†

On this spot, formerly (for the above mentioned reason) called the Butt Close, is now erected a handsome building, the parochial school of St Margaret's, established in the year 1807. We next pass the *Presbyterian*, or GREAT MEETING HOUSE, built, as appears by a date on the walls, 1708. The seats are calculated to accomodate eight hundred persons. An organ was erected here in 1800, a valuable ad-

\* " He had a bow bent in his hand,  
" Made of a trusty tree ;  
" An arrow of a cloth-yard long.  
" Up to the head drew he."

CHEVY CHACE.

† See an Essay on this subject by the Hon. Daines Barrington in the *Archæologia*.

vantage to the choir, who form a musical society, cultivated with great care, and justly celebrated for its excellence.

Opposite the the Great Meeting is a Meeting House of a society of *Independents*, which will seat six hundred persons; and in the adjoining lane which has undergone a nominal degeneracy from *St. Peter's* to *Woman's Lane*, is another, erected 1803, by a *Baptist* society. Between these two latter buildings, is an area used as a *Bowling Green*, with many small structures erected for the general purposes of amusement; it is known by the name of the *New Vauxhall*. From hence we pass an irregular street, now called the

#### SWINE MARKET,

formerly *Parchment Lane*; which may afford interest to the mind though not to the eye; for the reflective Traveller will not regard as unimportant the humble dwellings of those Manufacturers whose industry supplies the commercial wealth of the nation.

From this street we arrive at a spot still called the

#### EAST-GATES,

though the gates of the ancient town were, some years ago, taken down to render the passage more commodious. In the massy wood of these gates were found balls of a large size, which probably had lodged there ever since the assault made upon the



town by king Charles's forces in 1695, when according to a note in the pocket-book of one Simmonds, a quarter-master in the King's army, which is now preserved in the Harleian library, "Col. Bard's "Tertia fell on with scaling ladders, some near a flanker, and others scaled the horne work before "the draw-bridge on the east side."

We now advance along the

### HIGH-STREET,

observing on the right hand, about half way up, a lofty hexagon turret, whose top is glazed for the purpose of a prospect seat. It bears on the inside, marks of considerable antiquity, and is a remain of the mansion of Henry, Earl of Huntingdon, called *Lord's Place*. It has a winding stair-case of stone, with a small apartment on each story, and is now modernized with an outward coating of brick.

From hence we enter a street, which was formerly upon the great north road; it leads to Ashby-de-la-Zouch, and changing its denomination at different places, intersects the town from the southern extremity, where stands the Infirmary, to the North Bridge, a space of a mile and one-eighth; where it is crossed by High-Street and St. Nicholas-Street, it takes the name of

### HIGH CROSS-STREET,

from a plain doric pillar bearing the name of High

Cross, and which formed some years ago one of the supporters of a light temple looking building of the same name, that servsd as a shelter to the country people who here hold a small market on Wednesdays and Fridays, for the sale of butter, eggs, &c. Here the members of parliament are proclaimed, and here also may be seen on Michaelmas day, the grotesque ceremony of the poor men of Trinity Hospital, arrayed like ancient knights, having rusty helmets on their heads, and breast-plates fastened over their black taberdes, proclaiming the fair.

Some paces lower the massy stone front of an edifice adorned with rusticated pillars points to the eye the *County Gaol*, erected in the year 1791, at the expense of six thousand pounds. The spectator may perhaps be led into a reflection on the violation of propriety, when he sees the Roman fasces and pileus encircled by heavy chains decorating an English prison. Under these symbols the name of the architect is fully conspicuous, and it may be observed as an example of sudden vicissitude, that the builder of this fabric became, as a debtor, its first inhabitant.

This prison was erected upon the scite of the old gaol, some years after the benevolent Howard visited Leicester, and is built with solitary cells after the plan recommended by that celebrated philanthropist.

The mention of a character so widely expanding beyond the customary sphere of human action irresistibly arrests the attention of the heart that glows

into admiration at striking examples of virtue, and of the head that feels interest in tracing the motives which influence the conduct of man.

Separated from the county prison, by a lane called *Free School-Lane*, is a rude heavy building, adorned with the Royal Arms. This is the **FREE GRAMMAR SCHOOL**, the era of whose original foundation has been thought uncertain; but upon the authority of the learned topographer Leland, it is ascertained to have been founded by one of the three Wigstons interred in the collegiate church in the Newark, and who, according to the same writer, was a prebendary of that church. This, if not the same person, was brother to him who founded the hospital dedicated to St. Ursula, now called *Wigston's Hospital*. The master of that hospital had formerly the privilege of recommending, if not appointing, the master and usher of the school, but this right is now exercised by the mayor and senior aldermen. — The present building was erected by the mayor and burgesses, in the 15th of Elizabeth, who granted them for that purpose, the materials of the adjoining church of St. Peter. The present master is the Rev. Richard Davies, M. A.

On the opposite side of the street projects the gabel end of a building once part of the *Blue Boar*, afterwards *Blue Bell* inn, in ancient times undoubtedly the principal inn of the place. The old overhanging window gave light to a chamber in which

stood the bedstead, which has been celebrated by the name of *King Richard's bedstead*, from the circumstance of his having slept in it a few nights preceding Bosworth Fight.

Antiquaries have spoken of this bedstead as belonging to the king rather than to the master of the house; and this opinion has been thought favoured by the circumstance of a large sum in gold coin, partly of Richard's reign, accidentally discovered in its double bottom. The bedstead is of oak, highly ornamented with carved work, and is now in the possession of T. Babington, Esq. of Rothley Temple. There seems but little reason to suppose that a royal general, while attending the march of his army, should unnecessarily increase his baggage by so cumbersome a piece of furniture; or that a sovereign, guarded by nearly all the military force of the nation, should find it expedient to hide his gold like a private unprotected person. The bedstead therefore, it may safely be inferred, belonged, not to a monarch, but to the master of a good inn; and the money was secreted in it by some person anxious to secure his property from the dangers threatened by times of civil distraction.

At the bottom of *Blue Boar-Lane*, which takes its name from the inn, is a small alms-house, founded 1712, by Matthew Simons, Esq. for six poor women, and endowed with £20 10s. annually. This alms-

house was rebuilt in the year 1817 by the present trustees of that charity.

The next observable object in the High Cross-Street, is the *Town Gaol*. It is a commodious building, with a handsome stone front, and built after the plan of Howard—the architect, Mr. W. Firmadge.

In taking down the old gaol for the erection of the present edifice, in the year 1792, incorporated with the walls of the cells were discovered the remains of the chapel of St. John, supposed to have been destroyed during the contests between Henry the Second and his Son. A regular stone arch belonging to this chapel, of a circular form, with ornaments of cheveron work, was carefully taken from among the ruins of the old gaol, and preserved by that industrious antiquary and historian of Leicester, Mr. Throsby.

The small hospital of St. John, to which this chapel belonged, joins the prison; it supports six widows, who subsist on a very scanty stipend arising from various annual donations. Bent's Hospital, being the ground floor of the same building, supports four widows on a more ample endowment, viz. four shillings weekly.

We are now approaching one of the most valuable traces which Leicester affords of our Roman conquerors, a relic of their tessellated floors, preserved with great attention, in the cellar of Mr. Worthington, opposite the town prison. It was discovered

in the year 1675, about four feet and a half under the surface of the earth, which beneath was found to consist of oyster shells to a considerable depth ; it was sunk from its original position on one side, being considerably inclined from the level. — This pavement, which is an octagon three feet diameter, represents a stag looking intently upon the modestly-inclined countenance of a figure seemingly female, with her arm resting affectionately against his neck ; in front stands a boy, whose wings and bow plainly indicate him to be a Cupid : he appears about to discharge an arrow at the breast of the female ; a circumstance which renders it very certain that the subject must be the amours of some fabulous personages, but assuredly not *Diana and Actæon* ; nor yet, as some antiquaries have hastily supposed, *Cypressus* lamenting the death of his favourite stag. Indeed in the whole of the *Metamorphoses*, no story can be found bearing the slightest resemblance to the subject before us.

The elegant and picturesque Gilpin has chosen to denominate this pavement "a piece of miserable workmanship," which can only be owing to the manner in which he injudiciously viewed it. By placing the light in a proper position, the spectator will observe that the effect of the whole piece gives the idea of good design, shade, and relief ; and he will be clearly convinced that it could not have been wrought by a hand which had not made consider-

able progress in the art of painting, as is evident from the rounding of the arm of the female, the foreshortening of the stag's horn, and the animated expression of each countenance. The tesserae are of various sizes, mostly square, but where a narrow line of light was required, as in the straight Grecian nose of the female, they are small and long. They appear to be a composition, and are of three or four distinct shades, the darkest a brown, approaching to black, the next a warm or red brown, and the lightest, which forms the ground work, an ochery white.

The admirers of this art, so much practised by the Romans as a decoration of their magnificent buildings, an art which has survived so long as to have obtained an established manufactory in modern Rome, will ascertain the pavement in question to be one of the first specimens of ancient mosaic, and will, with gratified attention, here behold form and shade called up from that unmanageable material, a piece of baked earth.

The commonly received opinion of these pavements having been the floors of baths, as founded on the circumstance of their being discovered three or four feet under the surface of the earth, is not conclusive; for the soil has been raised by accidental accumulation; and had not this been the case, the depth of three or four feet would not have been sufficient for a bath, as it could not have allowed room for submersion. Neither does the vault, with a

floor and walls of tessellated work, and pipes in the roof, discovered near Leicester in the reign of James the First, (the memory alone of which is preserved by our indefatigable topographer, Mr. Nichols,) render such an opinion in any respect more certain ; but that some of them were floors of sitting rooms may be justly inferred, from the flues constructed under them for the purpose of conveying heat.

In examining the specimens of the mosaic art, we are tempted to draw a far different conclusion from that adopted by the truly learned author of the *Munimenta Antiqua*, who strongly adduces the number of *fragile* (as he terms them) tessellated floors found in Britain, as a proof of the slightness of the superstructures erected by the Romans. Now, surely it is not to be expected that a people whose architecture in their own country was so strikingly characterized by massiveness and splendor, should, in this island, which though a distant was a durable conquest, and improved by all their arts and industry, have departed from their usual principles. And farther, the taste and costly magnificence discoverable in these curious remains, must lead to the conclusion that they could not have committed them to slight or ordinary buildings, for they were decorations which the experience of more than fourteen hundred years has scarcely surpassed. Even the looms of modern Brussels, in elegance and beauty



of pattern, cannot fairly outvie the mosaic carpets of the ancient Romans.

The next object that engages the eye is the church of

### ALL SAINTS,

projecting on the west-end into the street, exhibiting in its clock an humble copy of the machinery of St. Dunstan's, in London. It is a small neat church, with three aisles and a low tower; but nothing in its architecture attracts regard. This vicarage, with that of *St. Peter's*, which was annexed to it in the reign of Elizabeth, includes the ancient parish of *St. Michael*, and part, if not the whole, of that of *St. Clement*.

A monument in this church-yard commemorates a character greatly distinguished by his large donations to the poor — *Alderman Gabriel Newton*.

Of the prevalence of alms-giving in Leicester, this parish, together with the rest, bears full testimony, in a long list of benefactors, from the royal grant of Charles the First of forty acres of land in Leicester forest, to poor house-keepers, (which now produces annually £33 11s. 4d.) \* to the donor of the penny wheaten loaf. From the return to Parliament in the reign of his late Majesty, when accounts were made of all the charitable donations in

\* This sum is now distributed under the title of wood and coal money.

the kingdom, it appears that there are donations in the parishes of Leicester, in land and money, (including the endowments of the lesser hospitals), mostly vested in the trust of the Corporation, and by them distributed, to the annual amount of upwards of £800. — See *Nichols*.

A short space below the church is the spot where formerly stood the *North Gates*; here a narrow lane, which once obtained the name of St. Clement's, from its leading to that church, but which is now degraded into *Deadman's-Lane*, is the passage to a meeting-house belonging to the society of Quakers. In this lane was erected the parochial school of All Saints, in the year 1819.

The street continuing in a right line, now takes the name of

#### NORTH GATE-STREET,

and conducts us to a bridge over the canal, beyond which is the *North* or *St. Sunday's Bridge*. This is an elegant stone structure, erected in 1796, and, when viewed from the abbey meadow below, it forms with the trees and slopes beyond it a very pleasing scene. Its three arches are small segments of a large circle.

At the foot of the bridge, in an area enclosed by a low wall, and distinguished by a few scattered grave-stones, the church-yard of *St. Leonard* meets the eye. The church, of which no trace remains,

was demolished by the Parliament garrison in the reign of Charles the First; as from its convenient situation it might have covered the approach of the enemy, and given them the command of the bridge. The parish still remains distinct, and the occasional duty is performed by the minister of St. Margaret's.

We cannot leave the North Bridge, without remarking that near this spot once stood an establishment, which as it related to a privilege exclusively royal, that of coining money, has ever been thought to confer honour on the places where it was allowed to be exercised. It is undoubtedly proved from the series of coins that have been collected, that money was coined at the *Mint at Leicester*, in regular succession, from the reign of the Saxon king Athelstan, down to Henry the Second. The *Monetarii*, or governors of the mint, were entitled to considerable privileges and exemptions, being *Socmen*, or holders of land in the Soc, or franchise of a great baron, yet they could not be compelled to relinquish their tenements at their lord's will. They paid twenty pounds every year, a considerable sum, as a pound at the Conquest contained three times the weight of silver it does at present. These pounds consisted of pennies, each weighing one *ora* or ounce, of the value of twenty pence. Two-thirds of this sum were paid to the king, and the other third to the feudal baron of Leicester.

The Leicester coins of Athelstan and Edmund the

First, have only a rose with a legend of the king's name, that of the moneyer, and Leicester; from Etheldred the Second, they bear the impress of the royal head and sceptre, with the same stile of legend unchanged.

In this series of Leicester coins, which has been engraved with accurate attention in the valuable work of Mr. Nichols, the triangular helmets, uncouth diadems, and rudely expressed countenances of our Saxon sovereigns, exhibit, when opposed to a plate of Roman coinage, a striking contrast to the nicely delineated features of the laurelled Cæsars. In no instance of comparison does the Roman art appear more conspicuous. The great quantity of coins of that scientific people which have been found at Leicester, is an additional testimony of its consequence as a Roman town; these, unfortunately, upon being found at different periods, have passed into various hands, and although some few gentlemen here have made collections, yet it is to be regretted that by far the greater part of the coins have been taken from the town. Had those found in the last century been thrown together into one cabinet, Leicester might have exhibited at this time a respectable series of Roman coinage, both in brass and silver, from the emperor Nero, down to Valens. Leaving those whose taste shall so direct them, to pursue the train of reflections to which this most curious subject may lead, we return to our route.

From the North Bridge two streets branch out ; that on the left the

### WOOD-GATE,

leading to the Ashby-de-la-Zouch road, and that on the right, the

### ABBEY-GATE.

In this street was formerly an alms-house, called *Countess's Hospital*, founded probably by a lady of the Devonshire family, living at the neighbouring mansion ; but this charity is now entirely lost. Every benevolent man must here breathe a wish (and feel prepared to assist the realization of that wish by every means in his power) that the most important subject of the *abuse of public charities* may continue to be investigated with that perseverance and zeal which the cause so imperiously demands, particularly in the present period.

We now conduct our traveller to

### THE ABBEY.

The name of *Abbey*, so dear to painting, poetry, and romance, naturally raises in the mind an idea of the picturesque and the awful ; but we are now approaching no gothic perspectives, no " long drawn aisles and fretted vaults," and scarcely able to bring a single instance of assimilation, we visit an abbey only in name ; yet we visit a spot well adapted to

the purposes to which it was appropriated. Sequestered, surrounded, by pleasing objects, and dignified by the evidences of history, it offers to the thinking mind all those interesting sensations which a review of past times, important events, and manners now no more, can possibly produce.

An ancient brick wall, with a small niche of stone, is the first indication of its boundaries. This is said by Leland, to have been built by Bishop Penny, who was abbot of this monastery in 1496. This prelate continued in his abbacy till he was translated to the See of Carlisle, and even then, when spared from his episcopal duty, he delighted to dwell among his brethren in this religious retreat, and was interred in the neighbouring church of St. Margaret. Tracing the wall, we enter the grounds by a modern gateway, and perceive, among orchards, gardens, and potatoe plantations, (the land being occupied by a gardener and nursery-man) the front wall, facing the north-west, of the mansion, once belonging to the earls of Devonshire, which, as Mr. Grose has ascertained from a MS in the British Museum, was built out of the ruins of the Abbey, long after its dissolution. The massy stone stanchions of the windows of this house which still remain entire, and the firmness of the walls, shew the durability of the materials. They still retain the traces of that fire by which the forces of Charles the First on their retreat northward after their defeat at Naseby, de-

stroyed that mansion which, only a few days before, was the quarters of the king himself.

In these gardens, nearly thirty acres in extent, no traces now remain of the refectory, the cells of the abbot and twelve canons, the structures raised in the year 1134, by the great Robert Bossu, earl of Leicester; neither is there, as might have been hoped, one vestige of that noble church, believed to have been built by Petronilla, the wife of his son, Robert Blanchmains, and adorned with the pious donation of a braid of her hair wrought into a rope, to suspend the lamp in the great choir; an offering at which some of our modern females, who sacrifice their tresses with other views, may perhaps smile. Nor has the diligence of the enquiring antiquary been more successful in the discovery of any traces of the tomb of cardinal Wolsey, that great example of fallen ambition; who, after a life of more than princely magnificence, stripped of his honours, deprived of his eight hundred attendants, came here, sick, almost solitary, and a prisoner, performing a wearisome journey on an humble mule, to crave of the abbot "*a little earth for charity.*"

" At last, with easy roads, he came to Leicester.  
" Lodg'd in the abbey, where the reverend abbot,  
" With all his convent, honourably receiv'd him;  
" To whom he gave these words, ' O, father abbot,  
" ' An old man, broken with the storms of state,  
" ' Is come to lay his weary bones among ye;  
" ' Give him a little earth for charity.' "

*Shakespear — Henry VIII.*

But, however barren this spot may seem to be of ancient relics, it is not wholly destitute of objects calculated to revive in the thinking mind, the events to which we have been alluding; for in the small garden or court before the main front of the present ruins are still to be seen the dilapidated towers of that gate-way through which Wolsey entered in melancholy degradation, and through which other great, more prosperous, and often royal visitors, were admitted with their stately trains. This gateway has been preserved by the pencil of Peters, in his picture of Wolsey entering the Abbey, painted for the Shakespeare Gallery.

Returning by the first entrance, and passing this interesting gateway, and the ancient stone wall of the Abbey, overhung with profuse ivy, the visitor will find himself well recompensed for the trouble of a traverse along the Abbey Meadow, from the Bleach Yard at the angle of the wall, to the Navigation Bridge at the bottom of North Gate-Street.— The Abbey is now the property of Sir William Manners, Bart.

On crossing the ancient bed of the Soar, the eye will immediately take its flight over a fine level plain containing one hundred and forty acres of perhaps the richest soil in the kingdom, for that may truly be said of the *abbey meadow*. The right of this tract is vested partly in a number of proprietors who claim the hay, and partly in the inhabitants of Lei-



cester, who possess the privilege of here pasturing their cows till a certain period of the year.

This ample area was formerly used as a race-ground, but that annual sport is now removed to the south side of the town, having been here frequently incommoded by the floods from the Soar.

The view to the northward is simply ornamented by the church and village of Belgrave, whose inhabitants in 1357, in consequence of a dispute with the abbot concerning the boundaries of the Stocking Wood, blockaded the North Bridge and the Fosse, with a determination of depriving the monks of their usual supply of provision from their *grange*, or farm at Stoughton. This view forms a pleasing contrast to the towering churches and close grouped houses of Leicester. The eye of taste will, however, soon turn from these objects, and dwell with greater pleasure on the noble ivied walls bounding the Abbey domains; it will proceed to contemplate the mingling angles of its ruins, and in the back ground, the rich tops of the woods in the neighbourhood of Beaumont Leys. Beaumont Leys belongs to Miss Lawrence, the proprietor of Fountains Abbey, Yorkshire. This scene, however, will not serve merely to amuse the eye, but will naturally lead the well-informed visitor to interesting and affecting thoughts, while he contemplates the spot in which, in former times, were acted all the striking rites of the Romish Church, though he may lament the superstitious

errors into which a dark and ignorant age had plunged mankind, he need not join with the destroyer of these venerable institutions in loading their memory with odious crimes, nor deem them even wholly useless. Pity, and a regard to truth, will lead him to acknowledge that, though their worship was less pure than the reformed service now happily established in this island, yet it was calculated, by its address to the senses, to keep alive the remembrance of the faith of the gospel, and to prevent the warring baron and his rude vassals from relapsing into heathenism. Let it also be remembered, that monks, odious as we are wont to consider them, were at one time the only inhabitants of Christendom who were at all acquainted with such sciences as then peered above the mists of overwhelming ignorance. Of history, they may be said to be the modern fathers; and though, perhaps, like the age in which they lived, in some respects blind themselves, they led, not indirectly, to the enlightening of the present age. But in their own times they were far from useless; their monasteries were ever ready to receive the wearied traveller, and many persons of family, though of broken fortunes, were honorably maintained at their board. The poor were gratuitously relieved from their kitchens, and that in a manner, upon the whole, more favorable to religion and morality than they are now by these parish rates, which the abolition of monasteries, and the partition of their pro-

perty among private individuals, have rendered so oppressively necessary. To these valuable purposes the revenues of our Abbey were fully competent, for, it possessed the advowsons of thirty-six parish churches in Leicester and its county, which, together with lands in various places, and rights in particular districts, produced annually for its disposal more than one thousand pounds.

Quitting the Abbey Meadow, and passing the North Lock, we still continue our walk along pleasing rural scenes. The sweeps of the river which here beautifully meanders, wash, almost closely, a large extent of town, affording an agreeable prospect on the left, and a slope finely diversified with groves and pasturage descends gently to the meadows on the right. Approaching the Bow Bridge, we pass a plot of ground insulated by the Soar, called the Black Friars, once the scite of a monastery belonging to the Augustine or Black Friars, of which no traces now remain. That arm of the river which flows under the West Bridge, is by some supposed, from its passing under the scite of the old Roman town, to be a canal formed by that people for the convenience of their dwellings. It is now called the *New Soar*, and whether it can authentically boast the honor of being a Roman work, the antiquary may perhaps endeavour in vain to decide. A tunnel, or Roman sewer, was discovered in 1793, at an equal distance between the

Roman ruin, called Jewry Wall, and the river, and in a direct line towards the latter, which contained some curious fragments of Roman pottery.

Though it be the leading purpose of this survey to point out *existing* objects, those who lament the loss of such *ancient* remains as were justly to be prized, will pardon a brief tribute to the memory of *Bow Bridge*. That single arch of stone, richly shadowed with ivy, spanned, at the corner of this island, the arm of the Soar. Its beautiful curve, unbroken either by parapet or hand-rail, well merited the name with which some antiquaries have graced it — the *Rialto Bridge*. On the top of the bow, feeding on the mould which time had accumulated upon the stony ridge, flourished a spreading hawthorn; this, with the stream below, when sparkling under the reflection of the western sun, the broken shrubby banks, and the distant swell of Bradgate Park hill, formed a picture which has often allured the eye; a picture that, as it repeatedly arrested the painter's hand, we can hardly say is now no more.

Of this bridge, the learned author of the *Desiderata Curiosa*, who has mistaken it for the adjoining one of four arches, has given a plate in which is represented a troop of horsemen with banners, carrying the dead body of Richard the Third, thrown upon a horse, over a bridge which never exceeded three feet; a width fully sufficient for the purpose for which it seems to have been constructed, that of af-

fording a foot passage from the monastery of the Augustines to a spring of pure water some yards distant. This spring, till within a few years, was covered with a large circular stone, having an aperture in the centre, through which the monks let down their pitchers into the water, and retained the name of *St. Austin's Well*.

But though not over this bridge, yet over the adjoining one, known also, probably from its vicinity to the other, by the name of *Bow Bridge*, the monster Richard really passed, proud, angry, and threatening, mounted on his charger, to meet Richmond; and over it, the day after the battle, his body was brought behind a pursuivant at arms, naked and disgraced, and after being exhibited in the Town Hall, then situated at the bottom of Blue Boar-Lane, was interred in the church of the Grey Friars, near St. Martin's.

The name of this king excites in the mind a sensation of horror; — and though it required the overwhelming evidence of human depravity furnished by the French revolution, to make the author of the “*Historic Doubts*,” believe his crimes possible, the concurrent testimonies both of Lancastrian and Yorkist Chroniclers, too well demonstrate them. Though the latter may have endeavoured to soften the picture, and Shakespear may have thrown upon it the darkest shades by working up his deformity of body and mind into a picture of diabolical horror, the original, the undoubted traits are preserved by

both parties ; traits, which so far from being peculiar to Richard, marked likewise the other contending houses. Nor did he deviate widely from the manners of the times when he “ *waded through slaughter to a throne.*”

A pleasing woody road leads from Bow-Bridge to Danett's Hall, the seat of Edward Alexander, M. D. The ground here rising in a gentle slope obtains a command of the town, and that the dryness of the soil and agreeableness of the situation, mark it as a desirable spot for residence, even the taste of the ancient Romans may prove ; for in the plot of ground known by the name of the “ great cherry orchard,” remains a relic of one of their houses. This is a fragment of a tessellated floor, discovered a few years ago, but covered over by a former possessor of the estate. It is composed of tesserae of various sizes, forming an elegant geometrical pattern, but how far it extends, has not yet been ascertained

Among the great number of these pavements found at Leicester, are three very perfect ones discovered in the ground belonging to the late Walter Ruding, Esq. adjoining the old Vauxhall, near the West Bridge — they also are composed in curious and exact patterns, and form entire squares ; but are now filled up. Of these, together with that in the great cherry orchard, very accurate plates are given in Nichols's Leicestershire.

To the westward of Danett's Hall, and West Cotes,

cester, who possess the privilege of here pasturing their cows till a certain period of the year.

This ample area was formerly used as a race-ground, but that annual sport is now removed to the south side of the town, having been here frequently incommoded by the floods from the Soar.

The view to the northward is simply ornamented by the church and village of Belgrave, whose inhabitants in 1357, in consequence of a dispute with the abbot concerning the boundaries of the Stocking Wood, blockaded the North Bridge and the Fosse, with a determination of depriving the monks of their usual supply of provision from their *grange*, or farm at Stoughton. This view forms a pleasing contrast to the towering churches and close grouped houses of Leicester. The eye of taste will, however, soon turn from these objects, and dwell with greater pleasure on the noble ivied walls bounding the Abbey domains; it will proceed to contemplate the mingling angles of its ruins, and in the back ground, the rich tops of the woods in the neighbourhood of Beaumont Leys. Beaumont Leys belongs to Miss Lawrence, the proprietor of Fountains Abbey, Yorkshire. This scene, however, will not serve merely to amuse the eye, but will naturally lead the well-informed visitor to interesting and affecting thoughts, while he contemplates the spot in which, in former times, were acted all the striking rites of the Romish Church, though he may lament the superstitious

errors into which a dark and ignorant age had plunged mankind, he need not join with the destroyer of these venerable institutions in loading their memory with odious crimes, nor deem them even wholly useless. Pity, and a regard to truth, will lead him to acknowledge that, though their worship was less pure than the reformed service now happily established in this island, yet it was calculated, by its address to the senses, to keep alive the remembrance of the faith of the gospel, and to prevent the warring baron and his rude vassals from relapsing into heathenism. Let it also be remembered, that monks, odious as we are wont to consider them, were at one time the only inhabitants of Christendom who were at all acquainted with such sciences as then peered above the mists of overwhelming ignorance. Of history, they may be said to be the modern fathers; and though, perhaps, like the age in which they lived, in some respects blind themselves, they led, not indirectly, to the enlightening of the present age. But in their own times they were far from useless; their monasteries were ever ready to receive the wearied traveller, and many persons of family, though of broken fortunes, were honorably maintained at their board. The poor were gratuitously relieved from their kitchens, and that in a manner, upon the whole, more favorable to religion and morality than they are now by these parish rates, which the abolition of monasteries, and the partition of their pro-



cester, who possess the privilege of here pasturing their cows till a certain period of the year.

This ample area was formerly used as a race-ground, but that annual sport is now removed to the south side of the town, having been here frequently incommoded by the floods from the Soar.

The view to the northward is simply ornamented by the church and village of Belgrave, whose inhabitants in 1357, in consequence of a dispute with the abbot concerning the boundaries of the Stocking Wood, blockaded the North Bridge and the Fosse, with a determination of depriving the monks of their usual supply of provision from their *grange*, or farm at Stoughton. This view forms a pleasing contrast to the towering churches and close grouped houses of Leicester. The eye of taste will, however, soon turn from these objects, and dwell with greater pleasure on the noble ivied walls bounding the Abbey domains; it will proceed to contemplate the mingling angles of its ruins, and in the back ground, the rich tops of the woods in the neighbourhood of Beaumont Leys. Beaumont Leys belongs to Miss Lawrence, the proprietor of Fountains Abbey, Yorkshire. This scene, however, will not serve merely to amuse the eye, but will naturally lead the well-informed visitor to interesting and affecting thoughts, while he contemplates the spot in which, in former times, were acted all the striking rites of the Romish Church, though he may lament the superstitious

errors into which a dark and ignorant age had plunged mankind, he need not join with the destroyer of these venerable institutions in loading their memory with odious crimes, nor deem them even wholly useless. Pity, and a regard to truth, will lead him to acknowledge that, though their worship was less pure than the reformed service now happily established in this island, yet it was calculated, by its address to the senses, to keep alive the remembrance of the faith of the gospel, and to prevent the warring baron and his rude vassals from relapsing into heathenism. Let it also be remembered, that monks, odious as we are wont to consider them, were at one time the only inhabitants of Christendom who were at all acquainted with such sciences as then peered above the mists of overwhelming ignorance. Of history, they may be said to be the modern fathers; and though, perhaps, like the age in which they lived, in some respects blind themselves, they led, not indirectly, to the enlightening of the present age. But in their own times they were far from useless; their monasteries were ever ready to receive the wearied traveller, and many persons of family, though of broken fortunes, were honorably maintained at their board. The poor were gratuitously relieved from their kitchens, and that in a manner, upon the whole, more favorable to religion and morality than they are now by these parish rates, which the abolition of monasteries, and the partition of their pro-

perty among private individuals, have rendered so oppressively necessary. To these valuable purposes the revenues of our Abbey were fully competent, for it possessed the advowsons of thirty-six parish churches in Leicester and its county, which, together with lands in various places, and rights in particular districts, produced annually for its disposal more than one thousand pounds.

Quitting the Abbey Meadow, and passing the North Lock, we still continue our walk along pleasing rural scenes. The sweeps of the river which here beautifully meanders, wash, almost closely, a large extent of town, affording an agreeable prospect on the left, and a slope finely diversified with groves and pasturage descends gently to the meadows on the right. Approaching the Bow Bridge, we pass a plot of ground insulated by the Soar, called the Black Friars, once the scite of a monastery belonging to the Augustine or Black Friars, of which no traces now remain. That arm of the river which flows under the West Bridge, is by some supposed, from its passing under the scite of the old Roman town, to be a canal formed by that people for the convenience of their dwellings. It is now called the *New Soar*, and whether it can authentically boast the honor of being a Roman work, the antiquary may perhaps endeavour in vain to decide. A tunnel, or Roman sewer, was discovered in 1793, at an equal distance between the

Roman ruin, called Jewry Wall, and the river, and in a direct line towards the latter, which contained some curious fragments of Roman pottery.

Though it be the leading purpose of this survey to point out *existing* objects, those who lament the loss of such *ancient* remains as were justly to be prized, will pardon a brief tribute to the memory of *Bow Bridge*. That single arch of stone, richly shadowed with ivy, spanned, at the corner of this island, the arm of the Soar. Its beautiful curve, unbroken either by parapet or hand-rail, well merited the name with which some antiquaries have graced it—the *Rialto Bridge*. On the top of the bow, feeding on the mould which time had accumulated upon the stony ridge, flourished a spreading hawthorn; this, with the stream below, when sparkling under the reflection of the western sun, the broken shrubby banks, and the distant swell of Bradgate Park hill, formed a picture which has often allured the eye; a picture that, as it repeatedly arrested the painter's hand, we can hardly say is now no more.

Of this bridge, the learned author of the *Desiderata Curiosa*, who has mistaken it for the adjoining one of four arches, has given a plate in which is represented a troop of horsemen with banners, carrying the dead body of Richard the Third, thrown upon a horse, over a bridge which never exceeded three feet; a width fully sufficient for the purpose for which it seems to have been constructed, that of af-

fording a foot passage from the monastery of the Augustines to a spring of pure water some yards distant. This spring, till within a few years, was covered with a large circular stone, having an aperture in the centre, through which the monks let down their pitchers into the water, and retained the name of *St. Austin's Well*.

But though not over this bridge, yet over the adjoining one, known also, probably from its vicinity to the other, by the name of *Bow Bridge*, the monster Richard really passed, proud, angry, and threatening, mounted on his charger, to meet Richmond; and over it, the day after the battle, his body was brought behind a pursuivant at arms, naked and disgraced, and after being exhibited in the Town Hall, then situated at the bottom of Blue Boar-Lane, was interred in the church of the Grey Friars, near St. Martin's.

The name of this king excites in the mind a sensation of horror; — and though it required the overwhelming evidence of human depravity furnished by the French revolution, to make the author of the “*Historic Doubts*,” believe his crimes possible, the concurrent testimonies both of Lancastrian and Yorkist Chroniclers, too well demonstrate them. Though the latter may have endeavoured to soften the picture, and Shakespear may have thrown upon it the darkest shades by working up his deformity of body and mind into a picture of diabolical horror, the original, the undoubted traits are preserved by

both parties; traits, which so far from being peculiar to Richard, marked likewise the other contending houses. Nor did he deviate widely from the manners of the times when he "*waded through slaughter to a throne.*"

A pleasing woody road leads from Bow-Bridge to Danett's Hall, the seat of Edward Alexander, M. D. The ground here rising in a gentle slope obtains a command of the town, and that the dryness of the soil and agreeableness of the situation, mark it as a desirable spot for residence, even the taste of the ancient Romans may prove; for in the plot of ground known by the name of the "great cherry orchard," remains a relic of one of their houses. This is a fragment of a tessellated floor, discovered a few years ago, but covered over by a former possessor of the estate. It is composed of tesserae of various sizes, forming an elegant geometrical pattern, but how far it extends, has not yet been ascertained

Among the great number of these pavements found at Leicester, are three very perfect ones discovered in the ground belonging to the late Walter Ruding, Esq. adjoining the old Vauxhall, near the West Bridge — they also are composed in curious and exact patterns, and form entire squares; but are now filled up. Of these, together with that in the great cherry orchard, very accurate plates are given in Nichols's Leicestershire.

To the westward of Danett's Hall, and West Cotes,

cester, who possess the privilege of here pasturing their cows till a certain period of the year.

This ample area was formerly used as a race-ground, but that annual sport is now removed to the south side of the town, having been here frequently incommoded by the floods from the Soar.

The view to the northward is simply ornamented by the church and village of Belgrave, whose inhabitants in 1357, in consequence of a dispute with the abbot concerning the boundaries of the Stocking Wood, blockaded the North Bridge and the Fosse, with a determination of depriving the monks of their usual supply of provision from their *grange*, or farm at Stoughton. This view forms a pleasing contrast to the towering churches and close grouped houses of Leicester. The eye of taste will, however, soon turn from these objects, and dwell with greater pleasure on the noble ivied walls bounding the Abbey domains; it will proceed to contemplate the mingling angles of its ruins, and in the back ground, the rich tops of the woods in the neighbourhood of Beaumont Leys. Beaumont Leys belongs to Miss Lawrence, the proprietor of Fountains Abbey, Yorkshire. This scene, however, will not serve merely to amuse the eye, but will naturally lead the well-informed visitor to interesting and affecting thoughts, while he contemplates the spot in which, in former times, were acted all the striking rites of the Romish Church, though he may lament the superstitious

errors into which a dark and ignorant age had plunged mankind, he need not join with the destroyer of these venerable institutions in loading their memory with odious crimes, nor deem them even wholly useless. Pity, and a regard to truth, will lead him to acknowledge that, though their worship was less pure than the reformed service now happily established in this island, yet it was calculated, by its address to the senses, to keep alive the remembrance of the faith of the gospel, and to prevent the warring baron and his rude vassals from relapsing into heathenism. Let it also be remembered, that monks, odious as we are wont to consider them, were at one time the only inhabitants of Christendom who were at all acquainted with such sciences as then peered above the mists of overwhelming ignorance. Of history, they may be said to be the modern fathers; and though, perhaps, like the age in which they lived, in some respects blind themselves, they led, not indirectly, to the enlightening of the present age. But in their own times they were far from useless; their monasteries were ever ready to receive the wearied traveller, and many persons of family, though of broken fortunes, were honorably maintained at their board. The poor were gratuitously relieved from their kitchens, and that in a manner, upon the whole, more favorable to religion and morality than they are now by these parish rates, which the abolition of monasteries, and the partition of their pro-



cester, who possess the privilege of here pasturing their cows till a certain period of the year.

This ample area was formerly used as a race-ground, but that annual sport is now removed to the south side of the town, having been here frequently incommoded by the floods from the Soar.

The view to the northward is simply ornamented by the church and village of Belgrave, whose inhabitants in 1357, in consequence of a dispute with the abbot concerning the boundaries of the Stocking Wood, blockaded the North Bridge and the Fosse, with a determination of depriving the monks of their usual supply of provision from their *grange*, or farm at Stoughton. This view forms a pleasing contrast to the towering churches and close grouped houses of Leicester. The eye of taste will, however, soon turn from these objects, and dwell with greater pleasure on the noble ivied walls bounding the Abbey domains; it will proceed to contemplate the mingling angles of its ruins, and in the back ground, the rich tops of the woods in the neighbourhood of Beaumont Leys. Beaumont Leys belongs to Miss Lawrence, the proprietor of Fountains Abbey, Yorkshire. This scene, however, will not serve merely to amuse the eye, but will naturally lead the well-informed visitor to interesting and affecting thoughts, while he contemplates the spot in which, in former times, were acted all the striking rites of the Romish Church, though he may lament the superstitious

errors into which a dark and ignorant age had plunged mankind, he need not join with the destroyer of these venerable institutions in loading their memory with odious crimes, nor deem them even wholly useless. Pity, and a regard to truth, will lead him to acknowledge that, though their worship was less pure than the reformed service now happily established in this island, yet it was calculated, by its address to the senses, to keep alive the remembrance of the faith of the gospel, and to prevent the warring baron and his rude vassals from relapsing into heathenism. Let it also be remembered, that monks, odious as we are wont to consider them, were at one time the only inhabitants of Christendom who were at all acquainted with such sciences as then peered above the mists of overwhelming ignorance. Of history, they may be said to be the modern fathers; and though, perhaps, like the age in which they lived, in some respects blind themselves, they led, not indirectly, to the enlightening of the present age. But in their own times they were far from useless; their monasteries were ever ready to receive the wearied traveller, and many persons of family, though of broken fortunes, were honorably maintained at their board. The poor were gratuitously relieved from their kitchens, and that in a manner, upon the whole, more favorable to religion and morality than they are now by these parish rates, which the abolition of monasteries, and the partition of their pro-

perty among private individuals, have rendered so oppressively necessary. To these valuable purposes the revenues of our Abbey were fully competent, for, it possessed the advowsons of thirty-six parish churches in Leicester and its county, which, together with lands in various places, and rights in particular districts, produced annually for its disposal more than one thousand pounds.

Quitting the Abbey Meadow, and passing the North Lock, we still continue our walk along pleasing rural scenes. The sweeps of the river which here beautifully meanders, wash, almost closely, a large extent of town, affording an agreeable prospect on the left, and a slope finely diversified with groves and pasturage descends gently to the meadows on the right. Approaching the Bow Bridge, we pass a plot of ground insulated by the Soar, called the Black Friars, once the scite of a monastery belonging to the Augustine or Black Friars, of which no traces now remain. That arm of the river which flows under the West Bridge, is by some supposed, from its passing under the scite of the old Roman town, to be a canal formed by that people for the convenience of their dwellings. It is now called the *New Soar*, and whether it can authentically boast the honor of being a Roman work, the antiquary may perhaps endeavour in vain to decide. A tunnel, or Roman sewer, was discovered in 1793, at an equal distance between the

Roman ruin, called Jewry Wall, and the river, and in a direct line towards the latter, which contained some curious fragments of Roman pottery.

Though it be the leading purpose of this survey to point out *existing* objects, those who lament the loss of such *ancient* remains as were justly to be prized, will pardon a brief tribute to the memory of *Bow Bridge*. That single arch of stone, richly shadowed with ivy, spanned, at the corner of this island, the arm of the Soar. Its beautiful curve, unbroken either by parapet or hand-rail, well merited the name with which some antiquaries have graced it — the *Rialto Bridge*. On the top of the bow, feeding on the mould which time had accumulated upon the stony ridge, flourished a spreading hawthorn; this, with the stream below, when sparkling under the reflection of the western sun, the broken shrubby banks, and the distant swell of Bradgate Park hill, formed a picture which has often allured the eye; a picture that, as it repeatedly arrested the painter's hand, we can hardly say is now no more.

Of this bridge, the learned author of the *Desiderata Curiosa*, who has mistaken it for the adjoining one of four arches, has given a plate in which is represented a troop of horsemen with banners, carrying the dead body of Richard the Third, thrown upon a horse, over a bridge which never exceeded three feet; a width fully sufficient for the purpose for which it seems to have been constructed, that of af-

fording a foot passage from the monastery of the Augustines to a spring of pure water some yards distant. This spring, till within a few years, was covered with a large circular stone, having an aperture in the centre, through which the monks let down their pitchers into the water, and retained the name of *St. Austin's Well*.

But though not over this bridge, yet over the adjoining one, known also, probably from its vicinity to the other, by the name of *Bow Bridge*, the monster Richard really passed, proud, angry, and threatening, mounted on his charger, to meet Richmond; and over it, the day after the battle, his body was brought behind a pursuivant at arms, naked and disgraced, and after being exhibited in the Town Hall, then situated at the bottom of Blue Boar-Lane, was interred in the church of the Grey Friars, near St. Martin's.

The name of this king excites in the mind a sensation of horror; — and though it required the overwhelming evidence of human depravity furnished by the French revolution, to make the author of the “*Historic Doubts*,” believe his crimes possible, the concurrent testimonies both of Lancastrian and Yorkist Chroniclers, too well demonstrate them. Though the latter may have endeavoured to soften the picture, and Shakespear may have thrown upon it the darkest shades by working up his deformity of body and mind into a picture of diabolical horror, the original, the undoubted traits are preserved by

both parties ; traits, which so far from being peculiar to Richard, marked likewise the other contending houses. Nor did he deviate widely from the manners of the times when he "*waded through slaughter to a throne.*"

A pleasing woody road leads from Bow-Bridge to Danett's Hall, the seat of Edward Alexander, M. D. The ground here rising in a gentle slope obtains a command of the town, and that the dryness of the soil and agreeableness of the situation, mark it as a desirable spot for residence, even the taste of the ancient Romans may prove ; for in the plot of ground known by the name of the "great cherry orchard," remains a relic of one of their houses. This is a fragment of a tessellated floor, discovered a few years ago, but covered over by a former possessor of the estate. It is composed of tesserae of various sizes, forming an elegant geometrical pattern, but how far it extends, has not yet been ascertained

Among the great number of these pavements found at Leicester, are three very perfect ones discovered in the ground belonging to the late Walter Ruding, Esq. adjoining the old Vauxhall, near the West Bridge — they also are composed in curious and exact patterns, and form entire squares ; but are now filled up. Of these, together with that in the great cherry orchard, very accurate plates are given in Nichols's Leicestershire.

To the westward of Danett's Hall, and West Cotes,

fording a foot passage from the monastery of the Augustines to a spring of pure water some yards distant. This spring, till within a few years, was covered with a large circular stone, having an aperture in the centre, through which the monks let down their pitchers into the water, and retained the name of *St. Austin's Well*.

But though not over this bridge, yet over the adjoining one, known also, probably from its vicinity to the other, by the name of *Bow Bridge*, the monster Richard really passed, proud, angry, and threatening, mounted on his charger, to meet Richmond; and over it, the day after the battle, his body was brought behind a pursuivant at arms, naked and disgraced, and after being exhibited in the Town Hall, then situated at the bottom of Blue Boar-Lane, was interred in the church of the Grey Friars, near St. Martin's.

The name of this king excites in the mind a sensation of horror; — and though it required the overwhelming evidence of human depravity furnished by the French revolution, to make the author of the “*Historic Doubts*,” believe his crimes possible, the concurrent testimonies both of Lancastrian and Yorkist Chroniclers, too well demonstrate them. Though the latter may have endeavoured to soften the picture, and Shakespear may have thrown upon it the darkest shades by working up his deformity of body and mind into a picture of diabolical horror, the original, the undoubted traits are preserved by

both parties ; traits, which so far from being peculiar to Richard, marked likewise the other contending houses. Nor did he deviate widely from the manners of the times when he "*waded through slaughter to a throne.*"

A pleasing woody road leads from Bow-Bridge to Danett's Hall, the seat of Edward Alexander, M. D. The ground here rising in a gentle slope obtains a command of the town, and that the dryness of the soil and agreeableness of the situation, mark it as a desirable spot for residence, even the taste of the ancient Romans may prove ; for in the plot of ground known by the name of the "great cherry orchard," remains a relic of one of their houses. This is a fragment of a tessellated floor, discovered a few years ago, but covered over by a former possessor of the estate. It is composed of tesserae of various sizes, forming an elegant geometrical pattern, but how far it extends, has not yet been ascertained

Among the great number of these pavements found at Leicester, are three very perfect ones discovered in the ground belonging to the late Walter Ruding, Esq. adjoining the old Vauxhall, near the West Bridge — they also are composed in curious and exact patterns, and form entire squares ; but are now filled up. Of these, together with that in the great cherry orchard, very accurate plates are given in Nichols's Leicestershire.

To the westward of Danett's Hall, and West Cotes,





errors into which a dark and ignorant age had plunged mankind, he need not join with the destroyer of these venerable institutions in loading their memory with odious crimes, nor deem them even wholly useless. Pity, and a regard to truth, will lead him to acknowledge that, though their worship was less pure than the reformed service now happily established in this island, yet it was calculated, by its address to the senses, to keep alive the remembrance of the faith of the gospel, and to prevent the warring baron and his rude vassals from relapsing into heathenism. Let it also be remembered, that monks, odious as we are wont to consider them, were at one time the only inhabitants of Christendom who were at all acquainted with such sciences as then peered above the mists of overwhelming ignorance. Of history, they may be said to be the modern fathers; and though, perhaps, like the age in which they lived, in some respects blind themselves, they led, not indirectly, to the enlightening of the present age. But in their own times they were far from useless; their monasteries were ever ready to receive the wearied traveller, and many persons of family, though of broken fortunes, were honorably maintained at their board. The poor were gratuitously relieved from their kitchens, and that in a manner, upon the more favorable to religion and morality than now by these parish rates, which the abbeys, and the partition of their pro-

cester, who possess the privilege of here pasturing their cows till a certain period of the year.

This ample area was formerly used as a race-ground, but that annual sport is now removed to the south side of the town, having been here frequently incommoded by the floods from the Soar.

The view to the northward is simply ornamented by the church and village of Belgrave, whose inhabitants in 1357, in consequence of a dispute with the abbot concerning the boundaries of the Stocking Wood, blockaded the North Bridge and the Fosse, with a determination of depriving the monks of their usual supply of provision from their *grange*, or farm at Stoughton. This view forms a pleasing contrast to the towering churches and close grouped houses of Leicester. The eye of taste will, however, soon turn from these objects, and dwell with greater pleasure on the noble ivied walls bounding the Abbey domains; it will proceed to contemplate the mingling angles of its ruins, and in the back ground, the rich tops of the woods in the neighbourhood of Beaumont Leys. Beaumont Leys belongs to Miss Lawrence, the proprietor of Fountains Abbey, Yorkshire. This scene, however, will not serve merely to amuse the eye, but will naturally lead the well-informed visitor to interesting and affecting thoughts, while he contemplates the spot in which, in former times, were acted all the striking rites of the Romish Church, though he may lament the superstitious


errors into which a dark and ignorant age had plunged mankind, he need not join with the destroyer of these venerable institutions in loading their memory with odious crimes, nor deem them even wholly useless. Pity, and a regard to truth, will lead him to acknowledge that, though their worship was less pure than the reformed service now happily established in this island, yet it was calculated, by its address to the senses, to keep alive the remembrance of the faith of the gospel, and to prevent the warring baron and his rude vassals from relapsing into heathenism. Let it also be remembered, that monks, odious as we are wont to consider them, were at one time the only inhabitants of Christendom who were at all acquainted with such sciences as then peered above the mists of overwhelming ignorance. Of history, they may be said to be the modern fathers; and though, perhaps, like the age in which they lived, in some respects blind themselves, they led, not indirectly, to the enlightening of the present age. But in their own times they were far from useless; their monasteries were ever ready to receive the wearied traveller, and many persons of family, though of broken fortunes, were honorably maintained at their board. The poor were gratuitously relieved from their kitchens, and that in a manner, upon the whole, more favorable to religion and morality than they are now by these parish rates, which the abolition of monasteries, and the partition of their pro-

cester, who possess the privilege of here pasturing their cows till a certain period of the year.

This ample area was formerly used as a race-ground, but that annual sport is now removed to the south side of the town, having been here frequently incommoded by the floods from the Soar.

The view to the northward is simply ornamented by the church and village of Belgrave, whose inhabitants in 1357, in consequence of a dispute with the abbot concerning the boundaries of the Stocking Wood, blockaded the North Bridge and the Fosse, with a determination of depriving the monks of their usual supply of provision from their *grange*, or farm at Stoughton. This view forms a pleasing contrast to the towering churches and close grouped houses of Leicester. The eye of taste will, however, soon turn from these objects, and dwell with greater pleasure on the noble ivied walls bounding the Abbey domains; it will proceed to contemplate the mingling angles of its ruins, and in the back ground, the rich tops of the woods in the neighbourhood of Beaumont Leys. Beaumont Leys belongs to Miss Lawrence, the proprietor of Fountains Abbey, Yorkshire. This scene, however, will not serve merely to amuse the eye, but will naturally lead the well-informed visitor to interesting and affecting thoughts, while he contemplates the spot in which, in former times, were acted all the striking rites of the Romish Church, though he may lament the superstitious

errors into which a dark and ignorant age had plunged mankind, he need not join with the destroyer of these venerable institutions in leading their memory with odious crimes, nor deem them even wholly useless. Pity, and a regard to truth, will lead him to acknowledge that, though their worship was less pure than the reformed service now happily established in this island, yet it was calculated, by its address to the senses, to keep alive the remembrance of the faith of the gospel, and to prevent the warring baron and his rude vassals from relapsing into heathenism. Let it also be remembered, that monks, odious as we are wont to consider them, were at one time the only inhabitants of Christendom who were at all acquainted with such sciences as then peered above the mists of overwhelming ignorance. Of history, they may be said to be the modern fathers; and though, perhaps, like the age in which they lived, in some respects blind themselves, they led, not indirectly, to the enlightening of the present age. But in their own times they were far from useless; their monasteries were ever ready to receive the wearied traveller, and many persons of family, though of broken fortunes, were honorably maintained at their board. The poor were gratuitously relieved from their kitchens, and that in a manner, upon the whole, more favorable to religion and morality than they are now by these parish rates, which the abolition of monasteries, and the partition of their pro-



perty among private individuals, have rendered so oppressively necessary. To these valuable purposes the revenues of our Abbey were fully competent, for, it possessed the advowsons of thirty-six parish churches in Leicester and its county, which, together with lands in various places, and rights in particular districts, produced annually for its disposal more than one thousand pounds.

Quitting the Abbey Meadow, and passing the North Lock, we still continue our walk along pleasing rural scenes. The sweeps of the river which here beautifully meanders, wash, almost closely, a large extent of town, affording an agreeable prospect on the left, and a slope finely diversified with groves and pasturage descends gently to the meadows on the right. Approaching the Bow Bridge, a small plot of ground insulated by the Soar, the site of the Black Friars, once the scite of a monastery belonging to the Augustine or I. which no traces now remain. The river which flows under the Waterworks, some supposed, from its passing the site of the old Roman town, to be a conduit that people for the convenience of the city. It is now called the *New Soar*, and authentically boast the honor of being the work, the antiquary may perhaps endeavor to decide. A tunnel, or Roman sewer, discovered in 1793, at an equal distance

Roman ruin, called Jewry Wall, and the river, in a direct line towards the latter, which contain some curious fragments of Roman pottery.

Though it be the leading purpose of this survey to point out existing objects, those who lament the loss of such ancient remains as were justly to be prized, will pardon a brief tribute to the memory of Bow Bridge. That single arch of stone, richly dowered with ivy, spanned, at the corner of this the arm of the Soar. Its beautiful curve, with either by parapet or hand-rail, well merited the Rialto Bridge. Some antiquaries have graced the mould-stony ridge with reflections formed by the distant sun.

the  
horse,  
feet; a  
which it



perty among private individuals, have rendered so oppressively necessary. To these valuable purposes the revenues of our Abbey were fully competent, for, it possessed the advowsons of thirty-six parish churches in Leicester and its county, which, together with lands in various places, and rights in particular districts, produced annually for its disposal more than one thousand pounds.

Quitting the Abbey Meadow, and passing the North Lock, we still continue our walk along pleasing rural scenes. The sweeps of the river which here beautifully meanders, wash, almost closely, a large extent of town, affording an agreeable prospect on the left, and a slope finely diversified with groves and pasturage descends gently to the meadows on the right. Approaching the Bow Bridge, we pass a plot of ground insulated by the Soar, called the Black Friars, once the scite of a monastery belonging to the Augustine or Black Friars, of which no traces now remain. That arm of the river which flows under the West Bridge, is by some supposed, from its passing under the scite of the old Roman town, to be a canal formed by that people for the convenience of their dwellings. It is now called the *New Soar*, and whether it can authentically boast the honor of being a Roman work, the antiquary may perhaps endeavour in vain to decide. A tunnel, or Roman sewer, was discovered in 1793, at an equal distance between the

Roman ruin, called Jewry Wall, and the river, and in a direct line towards the latter, which contained some curious fragments of Roman pottery.

Though it be the leading purpose of this survey to point out *existing* objects, those who lament the loss of such *ancient* remains as were justly to be prized, will pardon a brief tribute to the memory of *Bow Bridge*. That single arch of stone, richly shadowed with ivy, spanned, at the corner of this island, the arm of the Soar. Its beautiful curve, unbroken either by parapet or hand-rail, well merited the name with which some antiquaries have graced it—the *Rialto Bridge*. On the top of the bow, feeding on the mould which time had accumulated upon the stony ridge, flourished a spreading hawthorn; this, with the stream below, when sparkling under the reflection of the western sun, the broken shrubby banks, and the distant swell of Bradgate Park hill, formed a picture which has often allured the eye; a picture that, as it repeatedly arrested the painter's hand, we can hardly say is now no more.

Of this bridge, the learned author of the *Desiderata Curiosa*, who has mistaken it for the adjoining one of four arches, has given a plate in which is represented a troop of horsemen with banners, carrying the dead body of Richard the Third, thrown upon a horse, over a bridge which never exceeded three feet; a width fully sufficient for the purpose for which it seems to have been constructed, that of af-

cester, who possess the privilege of here pasturing their cows till a certain period of the year.

This ample area was formerly used as a race-ground, but that annual sport is now removed to the south side of the town, having been here frequently incommoded by the floods from the Soar.

The view to the northward is simply ornamented by the church and village of Belgrave, whose inhabitants in 1357, in consequence of a dispute with the abbot concerning the boundaries of the Stoking Wood, blockaded the North Bridge and the Fosse, with a determination of depriving the monks of their usual supply of provision from their *grange*, or farm at Stoughton. This view forms a pleasing contrast to the towering churches and close grouped houses of Leicester. The eye of taste will, however, soon turn from these objects, and dwell with greater pleasure on the noble ivied walls bounding the Abbey domains; it will proceed to contemplate the mingling angles of its ruins, and in the back ground, the rich tops of the woods in the neighbourhood of Beaumont Leys. Beaumont Leys belongs to Miss Lawrence, the proprietor of Fountains Abbey, Yorkshire. This scene, however, will not serve merely to amuse the eye, but will naturally lead the well-informed visitor to interesting and affecting thoughts, while he contemplates the spot in which, in former times, were acted all the striking rites of the Romish Church, though he may lament the superstitious

errors into which a dark and ignorant age had plunged mankind, he need not join with the destroyer of these venerable institutions in leading their memory with odious crimes, nor deem them even wholly useless. Pity, and a regard to truth, will lead him to acknowledge that, though their worship was less pure than the reformed service now happily established in this island, yet it was calculated, by its address to the senses, to keep alive the remembrance of the faith of the gospel, and to prevent the warring baron and his rude vassals from relapsing into heathenism. Let it also be remembered, that monks, odious as we are wont to consider them, were at one time the only inhabitants of Christendom who were at all acquainted with such sciences as then peered above the mists of overwhelming ignorance. Of history, they may be said to be the modern fathers; and though, perhaps, like the age in which they lived, in some respects blind themselves, they led, not indirectly, to the enlightening of the present age. But in their own times they were far from useless; their monasteries were ever ready to receive the wearied traveller, and many persons of family, though of broken fortunes, were honorably maintained at their board. The poor were gratuitously relieved from their kitchens, and that in a manner, upon the whole, more favorable to religion and morality than they are now by these parish rates, which the abolition of monasteries, and the partition of their pro-

cester, who possess the privilege of here pasturing their cows till a certain period of the year.

This ample area was formerly used as a race-ground, but that annual sport is now removed to the south side of the town, having been here frequently incommoded by the floods from the Soar.

The view to the northward is simply ornamented by the church and village of Belgrave, whose inhabitants in 1357, in consequence of a dispute with the abbot concerning the boundaries of the Stocking Wood, blockaded the North Bridge and the Fosse, with a determination of depriving the monks of their usual supply of provision from their *grange*, or farm at Stoughton. This view forms a pleasing contrast to the towering churches and close grouped houses of Leicester. The eye of taste will, however, soon turn from these objects, and dwell with greater pleasure on the noble ivied walls bounding the Abbey domains; it will proceed to contemplate the mingling angles of its ruins, and in the back ground, the rich tops of the woods in the neighbourhood of Beaumont Leys. Beaumont Leys belongs to Miss Lawrence, the proprietor of Fountains Abbey, Yorkshire. This scene, however, will not serve merely to amuse the eye, but will naturally lead the well-informed visitor to interesting and affecting thoughts, while he contemplates the spot in which, in former times, were acted all the striking rites of the Romish Church, though he may lament the superstitious

errors into which a dark and ignorant age had plunged mankind, he need not join with the destroyer of these venerable institutions in leading their memory with odious crimes, nor deem them even wholly useless. Pity, and a regard to truth, will lead him to acknowledge that, though their worship was less pure than the reformed service now happily established in this island, yet it was calculated, by its address to the senses, to keep alive the remembrance of the faith of the gospel, and to prevent the warring baron and his rude vassals from relapsing into heathenism. Let it also be remembered, that monks, odious as we are wont to consider them, were at one time the only inhabitants of Christendom who were at all acquainted with such sciences as then peered above the mists of overwhelming ignorance. Of history, they may be said to be the modern fathers; and though, perhaps, like the age in which they lived, in some respects blind themselves, they led, not indirectly, to the enlightening of the present age. But in their own times they were far from useless; their monasteries were ever ready to receive the wearied traveller, and many persons of family, though of broken fortunes, were honorably maintained at their board. The poor were gratuitously relieved from their kitchens, and that in a manner, upon the whole, more favorable to religion and morality than they are now by these parish rates, which the abolition of monasteries, and the partition of their pro-

cester, who possess the privilege of here pasturing their cows till a certain period of the year.

This ample area was formerly used as a race-ground, but that annual sport is now removed to the south side of the town, having been here frequently incommoded by the floods from the Soar.

The view to the northward is simply ornamented by the church and village of Belgrave, whose inhabitants in 1357, in consequence of a dispute with the abbot concerning the boundaries of the Stocking Wood, blockaded the North Bridge and the Fosse,<sup>6</sup> with a determination of depriving the monks of their usual supply of provision from their *grange*, or farm at Stoughton. This view forms a pleasing contrast to the towering churches and close grouped houses of Leicester. The eye of taste will, however, soon turn from these objects, and dwell with greater pleasure on the noble ivied walls bounding the Abbey domains; it will proceed to contemplate the mingling angles of its ruins, and in the back ground, the rich tops of the woods in the neighbourhood of Beaumont Leys. Beaumont Leys belongs to Miss Lawrence, the proprietor of Fountains Abbey, Yorkshire. This scene, however, will not serve merely to amuse the eye, but will naturally lead the well-informed visitor to interesting and affecting thoughts, while he contemplates the spot in which, in former times, were acted all the striking rites of the Romish Church, though he may lament the superstitious

errors into which a dark and ignorant age had plunged mankind, he need not join with the destroyer of these venerable institutions in leading their memory with odious crimes, nor deem them even wholly useless. Pity, and a regard to truth, will lead him to acknowledge that, though their worship was less pure than the reformed service now happily established in this island, yet it was calculated, by its address to the senses, to keep alive the remembrance of the faith of the gospel, and to prevent the warring baron and his rude vassals from relapsing into heathenism. Let it also be remembered, that monks, odious as we are wont to consider them, were at one time the only inhabitants of Christendom who were at all acquainted with such sciences as then peered above the mists of overwhelming ignorance. Of history, they may be said to be the modern fathers; and though, perhaps, like the age in which they lived, in some respects blind themselves, they led, not indirectly, to the enlightening of the present age. But in their own times they were far from useless; their monasteries were ever ready to receive the wearied traveller, and many persons of family, though of broken fortunes, were honorably maintained at their board. The poor were gratuitously relieved from their kitchens, and that in a manner, upon the whole, more favorable to religion and morality than they are now by these parish rates, which the abolition of monasteries, and the partition of their pro-



perty among private individuals, have rendered so oppressively necessary. To these valuable purposes the revenues of our Abbey were fully competent, for, it possessed the advowsons of thirty-six parish churches in Leicester and its county, which, together with lands in various places, and rights in particular districts, produced annually for its disposal more than one thousand pounds.

Quitting the Abbey Meadow, and passing the North Lock, we still continue our walk along pleasing rural scenes. The sweeps of the river which here beautifully meanders, wash, almost closely, a large extent of town, affording an agreeable prospect on the left, and a slope finely diversified with groves and pasturage descends gently to the meadows on the right. Approaching the Bow Bridge, we pass a plot of ground insulated by the Soar, called the Black Friars, once the scite of a monastery belonging to the Augustine or Black Friars, of which no traces now remain. That arm of the river which flows under the West Bridge, is by some supposed, from its passing under the scite of the old Roman town, to be a canal formed by that people for the convenience of their dwellings. It is now called the *New Soar*, and whether it can authentically boast the honor of being a Roman work, the antiquary may perhaps endeavour in vain to decide. A tunnel, or Roman sewer, was discovered in 1793, at an equal distance between the

Roman ruin, called Jewry Wall, and the river, and in a direct line towards the latter, which contained some curious fragments of Roman pottery.

Though it be the leading purpose of this survey to point out *existing* objects, those who lament the loss of such *ancient* remains as were justly to be prized, will pardon a brief tribute to the memory of *Bow Bridge*. That single arch of stone, richly shadowed with ivy, spanned, at the corner of this island, the arm of the Soar. Its beautiful curve, unbroken either by parapet or hand-rail, well merited the name with which some antiquaries have graced it — the *Rialto Bridge*. On the top of the bow, feeding on the mould which time had accumulated upon the stony ridge, flourished a spreading hawthorn ; this, with the stream below, when sparkling under the reflection of the western sun, the broken shrubby banks, and the distant swell of Bradgate Park hill, formed a picture which has often allured the eye ; a picture that, as it repeatedly arrested the painter's hand, we can hardly say is now no more.

Of this bridge, the learned author of the *Desiderata Curiosa*, who has mistaken it for the adjoining one of four arches, has given a plate in which is represented a troop of horsemen with banners, carrying the dead body of Richard the Third, thrown upon a horse, over a bridge which never exceeded three feet ; a width fully sufficient for the purpose for which it seems to have been constructed, that of af-

fording a foot passage from the monastery of the Augustines to a spring of pure water some yards distant. This spring, till within a few years, was covered with a large circular stone, having an aperture in the centre, through which the monks let down their pitchers into the water, and retained the name of *St. Austin's Well*.

But though not over this bridge, yet over the adjoining one, known also, probably from its vicinity to the other, by the name of *Bow Bridge*, the monster Richard really passed, proud, angry, and threatening, mounted on his charger, to meet Richmond; and over it, the day after the battle, his body was brought behind a pursuivant at arms, naked and disgraced, and after being exhibited in the Town Hall, then situated at the bottom of Blue Boar-Lane, was interred in the church of the Grey Friars, near St. Martin's.

The name of this king excites in the mind a sensation of horror; — and though it required the overwhelming evidence of human depravity furnished by the French revolution, to make the author of the “*Historic Doubts*,” believe his crimes possible, the concurrent testimonies both of Lancastrian and Yorkist Chroniclers, too well demonstrate them. Though the latter may have endeavoured to soften the picture, and Shakespear may have thrown upon it the darkest shades by working up his deformity of body and mind into a picture of diabolical horror, the original, the undoubted traits are preserved by

both parties ; traits, which so far from being peculiar to Richard, marked likewise the other contending houses. Nor did he deviate widely from the manners of the times when he "*waded through slaughter to a throne.*"

A pleasing woody road leads from Bow-Bridge to Danett's Hall, the seat of Edward Alexander, M. D. The ground here rising in a gentle slope obtains a command of the town, and that the dryness of the soil and agreeableness of the situation, mark it as a desirable spot for residence, even the taste of the ancient Romans may prove ; for in the plot of ground known by the name of the " great cherry orchard," remains a relic of one of their houses. This is a fragment of a tessellated floor, discovered a few years ago, but covered over by a former possessor of the estate. It is composed of tesserae of various sizes, forming an elegant geometrical pattern, but how far it extends, has not yet been ascertained

Among the great number of these pavements found at Leicester, are three very perfect ones discovered in the ground belonging to the late Walter Ruding, Esq. adjoining the old Vauxhall, near the West Bridge — they also are composed in curious and exact patterns, and form entire squares ; but are now filled up. Of these, together with that in the great cherry orchard, very accurate plates are given in Nichols's Leicestershire.

To the westward of Danett's Hall, and West Cotes,

late the seat of the ancient family of Ruding, is a lane, or bridle road, commonly called the Fosse, but various reasons lead to the belief that it is not part of the ancient Roman road of that name. The unvarying testimony of tradition has clearly proved that the road from the town westward lay, in the reign of Richard the Third, over Bow-Bridge. By attending to the Fosse, which runs nearly in the line of the Narborough road by West-Cotes, it will seem likewise necessary to conclude that the approach to Leicester, in the time of the Romans, was also over a bridge situate near that spot ; for as it is certain that the Fosse did pass through Leicester, and the Romans in forming their roads scrupulously adhered to the straight line, they would cross the old Soar near this place.

When the Romans penetrated into Britain, under the reign of Claudius, they found it almost in every part crowded with woods, and infested with morasses ; and as the natives well knew how to avail themselves of these fastnesses, the island could never be considered as effectually conquered till it was rendered accessible to the march of the legions, and means were provided for speedy communication of intelligence from even the most distant parts of the provinces. On this account their cohorts early applied themselves to the task of forming roads ; nor did they cease their labours till, in the time of Antoninus, they had opened passages through the

island in all directions. In the reign of that emperor, these works, connected with others which they had already constructed on the continent, formed a great chain of communication, which, passing through Rome, from the Pict's wall, or north-west, to Jerusalem, nearly the south-east point of the empire, was drawn out to the length of 4,080 Roman, or as Mr. Reynolds has shewn, of so many British statute miles. Along these roads proper relays of horses were stationed at short distances, and it seems that couriers could travel with ease above an hundred miles a day. Two of these roads, as already observed, passed through Leicester. One, the *Via Devana*, leading from Camalodunum, or Colchester, in Essex, to *Deva*, or West Chester, a distance of about two hundred miles, has been lately discovered by some ingenious and able antiquaries of the University of Cambridge.

This road enters Leicestershire in the neighbourhood of Rockingham, continues a straight road for many miles till it nearly reaches Leicester, and passing through the town it is found to leave the county near Ashby-de-la-Zouch. The other road, called the *Via Fossata* or Fosse, always known, and every where remarkable, traverses the island in a north-east direction, from near Grimsby on the coast of Lincolnshire, passes through Bath, and terminates at Seaton, a village situated on the coast of Devonshire, a distance of more than two hundred and fifty

miles. It enters Leicestershire at a place called Seg's Hill, on the wolds, or anciently wild and uncultivated parts of the county; from thence it passes the village of Thurmaston and approaches the East-Gates of Leicester, by the street called the Belgrave-Gate. On the south-west of the town it is again recognized in the Narborough road. From that village it is recognized by its *direct line*, which now forms part of the new turnpike road from Narborough to Hinckley, made (by act of parliament) at the expense of John Frewen Turner Esq. of Cold Overton. The Fosse enters Warwickshire at High Cross, where it crosses the no less celebrated Roman road, the Watling Street. It is well known that in the formation of these roads, the Romans spared no cost and labour. From the remains of some of them it appears that upon a bed of sand they spread a coating of gravel, upon which the pebbles, and sometimes hewn or squared stones, were laid, firmly compacted together in a bed of cement. This, we have reason to believe, was the structure of such of the roads in this island as are distinguished by the title of *Street*, a word derived from the Latin *Strata*, meaning formed of layers. But such pains were not, it is probable, taken in all cases; and from the name of one of the roads passing through Leicester, the *Fosse*, an abbreviation of the Latin *Via Fossata*, meaning the way ditched, or dug, we cannot but conclude that it was a road raised by the spade, and

formed with a rampart, and probably covered with gravel in the manner of our present turnpike roads. The same may also be said of the *Via Devana*, whose rampart, now covered with grass, the ingenious discoverers observed in many places.

When the Saxons subdued this island, after the departure of the Romans, to preserve a ready communication between distant places formed no part of their rude and simple policy. Hence the best roads of the Romans were neglected by them; and since the Romans had either forbidden, or the inclination of the Britons had dissuaded them, from erecting villages on the line of public roads, those roads became useless, and their lasting materials are only to be found, though not distinguished, in the foundations of the neighbouring habitations. As it would always be more easy to carry away the materials of a Roman road than dig for them in a quarry, it has happened that those materials have been in general so entirely removed, as to leave almost nowhere any other trace than history and tradition of their existence.

From the departure of the Romans in 445, to the beginning of the eighteenth century, the roads of this island received little or no improvement from the legislative powers, except by an order in the reign of Henry the Second, that roads should be cleared of woods and made open, that travellers might have leisure, if they should find it prudent, to prepare to



resist the almost armies of robbers which were spread over the face of almost every county. Roads, being no longer regulated by any system, to pass from place to place so as to avoid as well as might be the inconveniences of woods, bogs, and sloughs, became the only business of the traveller. It was thus by accident the line of our present roads was formed, and to this their frequent circuits and other inconveniences are owing.

During the period above mentioned they were in general so bad as to be useless for the passage of any other carriages than carts, and for these only in the summer season ; so that the people inhabiting the same country as the Britons, who are said to have had numbers and great variety of cars of all kinds, were so exclusively confined to the use of horses and mules, that scarcely any other mode of conveyance was known even in London, and this so late as in the reigns of Elizabeth and James the First ; for it is certain that when the great Shakespeare fled from his country and came to town, his first means of subsistence were the pittances he might earn by holding the horses of the persons who had come from different parts of London to see the plays then performed at the Bankside Theatre.

It is not indeed to be asserted that till the 18th century our roads never received any repairs, for necessity would frequently call for something of the kind in most places ; nor yet that Toll Bars were

anciently wholly unknown ; for it is certain that a Gate or Bar was first erected in the reign of Edward the First, at a place now called Holborn Bars in London, for the purpose of collecting tolls for the repairs of the roads. But it must be allowed that the art of constructing a good and firm road was ill understood, and worse attended to : and when, in the beginning of the last century, turnpike roads were first made, it was imagined that the only good form was that of a ridge and furrow lying across the road on the line of its direction. Turnpike gates were also in many places considered as such impositions, that even in the beginning of the reign of George the Second, some persons contested the payment, several were frequently seen together, especially at newly-erected gates, suffering an interruption in their journey, rather than submit to what they deemed an imposition. Every one who understands the true conveniences of life, will rejoice that both the formation and repairs of roads, and also the usefulness of turnpike tolls, are now better understood ; that even countries once held to be inaccessible, are now open at all times and at all seasons to the traveller, and that most of our roads are now so well suited to the purposes not only of convenience but of pleasure, that we have no reason to lament the destruction of the Roman ways, or even not to think that we have within these few years greatly sur-

fording a foot passage from the monastery of the Augustines to a spring of pure water some yards distant. This spring, till within a few years, was covered with a large circular stone, having an aperture in the centre, through which the monks let down their pitchers into the water, and retained the name of *St. Austin's Well*.

But though not over this bridge, yet over the adjoining one, known also, probably from its vicinity to the other, by the name of *Bow Bridge*, the monster Richard really passed, proud, angry, and threatening, mounted on his charger, to meet Richmond; and over it, the day after the battle, his body was brought behind a pursuivant at arms, naked and disgraced, and after being exhibited in the Town Hall, then situated at the bottom of Blue Boar-Lane, was interred in the church of the Grey Friars, near St. Martin's.

The name of this king excites in the mind a sensation of horror; — and though it required the overwhelming evidence of human depravity furnished by the French revolution, to make the author of the “*Historic Doubts*,” believe his crimes possible, the concurrent testimonies both of Lancastrian and Yorkist Chroniclers, too well demonstrate them. Though the latter may have endeavoured to soften the picture, and Shakespear may have thrown upon it the darkest shades by working up his deformity of body and mind into a picture of diabolical horror, the original, the undoubted traits are preserved by

both parties; traits, which so far from being peculiar to Richard, marked likewise the other contending houses. Nor did he deviate widely from the manners of the times when he "*waded through slaughter to a throne.*"

A pleasing woody road leads from Bow-Bridge to Danett's Hall, the seat of Edward Alexander, M. D. The ground here rising in a gentle slope obtains a command of the town, and that the dryness of the soil and agreeableness of the situation, mark it as a desirable spot for residence, even the taste of the ancient Romans may prove; for in the plot of ground known by the name of the "great cherry orchard," remains a relic of one of their houses. This is a fragment of a tessellated floor, discovered a few years ago, but covered over by a former possessor of the estate. It is composed of tesserae of various sizes, forming an elegant geometrical pattern, but how far it extends, has not yet been ascertained

Among the great number of these pavements found at Leicester, are three very perfect ones discovered in the ground belonging to the late Walter Ruding, Esq. adjoining the old Vauxhall, near the West Bridge—they also are composed in curious and exact patterns, and form entire squares; but are now filled up. Of these, together with that in the great cherry orchard, very accurate plates are given in Nichols's Leicestershire.

To the westward of Danett's Hall, and West Cotes,

fording a foot passage from the monastery of the Augustines to a spring of pure water some yards distant. This spring, till within a few years, was covered with a large circular stone, having an aperture in the centre, through which the monks let down their pitchers into the water, and retained the name of *St. Austin's Well*.

But though not over this bridge, yet over the adjoining one, known also, probably from its vicinity to the other, by the name of *Bow Bridge*, the monster Richard really passed, proud, angry, and threatening, mounted on his charger, to meet Richmond; and over it, the day after the battle, his body was brought behind a pursuivant at arms, naked and disgraced, and after being exhibited in the Town Hall, then situated at the bottom of Blue Boar-Lane, was interred in the church of the Grey Friars, near St. Martin's.

The name of this king excites in the mind a sensation of horror; — and though it required the overwhelming evidence of human depravity furnished by the French revolution, to make the author of the “*Historic Doubts*,” believe his crimes possible, the concurrent testimonies both of Lancastrian and Yorkist Chroniclers, too well demonstrate them. Though the latter may have endeavoured to soften the picture, and Shakespear may have thrown upon it the darkest shades by working up his deformity of body and mind into a picture of diabolical horror, the original, the undoubted traits are preserved by

both parties; traits, which so far from being peculiar to Richard, marked likewise the other contending houses. Nor did he deviate widely from the manners of the times when he "*waded through slaughter to a throne.*"

A pleasing woody road leads from Bow-Bridge to Danett's Hall, the seat of Edward Alexander, M. D. The ground here rising in a gentle slope obtains a command of the town, and that the dryness of the soil and agreeableness of the situation, mark it as a desirable spot for residence, even the taste of the ancient Romans may prove; for in the plot of ground known by the name of the "great cherry orchard," remains a relic of one of their houses. This is a fragment of a tessellated floor, discovered a few years ago, but covered over by a former possessor of the estate. It is composed of tesserae of various sizes, forming an elegant geometrical pattern, but how far it extends, has not yet been ascertained

Among the great number of these pavements found at Leicester, are three very perfect ones discovered in the ground belonging to the late Walter Ruding, Esq. adjoining the old Vauxhall, near the West Bridge — they also are composed in curious and exact patterns, and form entire squares; but are now filled up. Of these, together with that in the great cherry orchard, very accurate plates are given in Nichols's Leicestershire.

To the westward of Danett's Hall, and West Cotes,

fording a foot passage from the monastery of the Augustines to a spring of pure water some yards distant. This spring, till within a few years, was covered with a large circular stone, having an aperture in the centre, through which the monks let down their pitchers into the water, and retained the name of *St. Austin's Well*.

But though not over this bridge, yet over the adjoining one, known also, probably from its vicinity to the other, by the name of *Bow Bridge*, the monster Richard really passed, proud, angry, and threatening, mounted on his charger, to meet Richmond; and over it, the day after the battle, his body was brought behind a pursuivant at arms, naked and disgraced, and after being exhibited in the Town Hall, then situated at the bottom of Blue Boar-Lane, was interred in the church of the Grey Friars, near St. Martin's.

The name of this king excites in the mind a sensation of horror; — and though it required the overwhelming evidence of human depravity furnished by the French revolution, to make the author of the “*Historic Doubts*,” believe his crimes possible, the concurrent testimonies both of Lancastrian and Yorkist Chroniclers, too well demonstrate them. Though the latter may have endeavoured to soften the picture, and Shakespear may have thrown upon it the darkest shades by working up his deformity of body and mind into a picture of diabolical horror, the original, the undoubted traits are preserved by

both parties ; traits, which so far from being peculiar to Richard, marked likewise the other contending houses. Nor did he deviate widely from the manners of the times when he "*waded through slaughter to a throne.*"

A pleasing woody road leads from Bow-Bridge to Danett's Hall, the seat of Edward Alexander, M. D. The ground here rising in a gentle slope obtains a command of the town, and that the dryness of the soil and agreeableness of the situation, mark it as a desirable spot for residence, even the taste of the ancient Romans may prove ; for in the plot of ground known by the name of the " great cherry orchard," remains a relic of one of their houses. This is a fragment of a tessellated floor, discovered a few years ago, but covered over by a former possessor of the estate. It is composed of tesserae of various sizes, forming an elegant geometrical pattern, but how far it extends, has not yet been ascertained

Among the great number of these pavements found at Leicester, are three very perfect ones discovered in the ground belonging to the late Walter Ruding, Esq. adjoining the old Vauxhall, near the West Bridge — they also are composed in curious and exact patterns, and form entire squares ; but are now filled up. Of these, together with that in the great cherry orchard, very accurate plates are given in Nichols's Leicestershire.

To the westward of Danett's Hall, and West Cotes,



*infra* or *juxta Castrum*) ; a building in which he will perceive, huddled together, specimens of various kinds of architecture, from the Norman gothic of the north chancel, to the very modern gothic of the spire ; a mixture which evinces the antiquity of the church, marks the disasters of violence, accident, and time, and proves that the neighbourhood of the Castle, within whose outer ballium or precincts it stood, was often most dangerous. That there was a church on this spot in the Saxon times, seems almost certain, from some bricks apparently the workmanship of that people, found in the chancel ; and the cheveron work round the windows of this chancel proves that the first Norman earl of Leicester, Robert de Bellomont, when he repaired the mischiefs of the Norman conquest, or rather of the attack made by William Rufus upon the property of the Grentemaisnells, constructed a church on a plan nearly like the present, and adorned it with all the ornaments of the architecture of his times. This earl founded in it a college of twelve canons, of whom the dean was most probably one, and among other donations for their support, he endowed it with the patronage of all the other churches of Leicester, St. Margaret's excepted. These, his son and successor, Robert, surnamed Bossu, converted into regular canons, and removed them, with great additional donations, to the Abbey in the meadows. He seems, however, to have continued an establishment of

eight canons in the collegiate church, though with revenues comparatively small, since their income, at the dissolution of the monasteries, was valued only at £23 12s. 11d. That the number of these canons remained unchanged at the time of the dissolution, appears probable, from the circumstance of seven cranes, and a socket for an eighth, being still found in a kind of press, or ark, as it is called, in the vestry, for the purpose of suspending the priests' vestments.

The inside of the church is spacious and commodious, and has lately been rendered more so by converting the gothic arches of the south side of the nave into one bold semi-circular arch, whose span is thirty-nine feet, and erecting a gallery in the wide south aisle, said to have been built by John of Gaunt, duke of Lancaster.

In the great choir, or chapel, called Trinity choir, at the east end of the great south aisle, (for the aisles of our churches were formerly often divided into chapels, but of which in this church no traces now remain), was held a *Guild*, or Fraternity, called *Trinity Guild*, founded in the reign of Henry the Seventh, by Sir Richard Sacheverel, Knight, and the good Lady Hungerford. Collections were made four times a year, of the brethren and sisters belonging to this society, whatever it might be, for antiquaries have not rendered the point sufficiently clear, but from their meetings being held in churches,

it is most probable that they were of a religious nature. The money when collected was applied to meet various expenses, but chiefly to pay the wages of their priest, perhaps their confessor, and to supply their great feast, held annually on Trinity Sunday, for which, according to the account of the steward and wardens, the following articles were purchased, A. D. 1508.

	s.	d.
A dozen of ale, .....	1	8
A fat sheep, .....	2	4
Seven lambs, .....	7	0
Thirty chickens, .....	1	11
Two gallons of cream, .....	0	8
Half a quarter of malt, .....	2	0
Fourteen geese, .....	4	3

From a curious and ingenious mathematical essay on the comparative prices of similar articles in different ages, presented to the Society of Antiquaries, we have here the pleasure of offering to the attention of our visitor the following valuable remarks :—

“ The generality of readers, when they look into the records of ancient times, are forcibly struck by the seeming lowness of the prices of every article of common demand, when compared with the modern prices. When they find that an ox was formerly sold for a few shillings, and the price of a quarter of corn calculated in pence, they are led to envy the supposed cheapness of those ages, and to bewail the distressing dearness of the present. Nothing however can be more absurd than the whining complaints

founded upon such facts ; for since the cheapness of living depends not so much upon the price given for every article of prime necessity, as upon the means by which, to use a common expression, the purchase may be afforded, we must, if we wish to form a proper judgment on the subject, rightly compare these means as they existed in different ages, otherwise our conclusions will be not only idle, but sometimes mischievous.

“ It is very certain that money is a commodity, no less than the articles it is employed to purchase, and, like them, its absolute value is depreciated or lowered by abundance. Since the discovery of America, the quantity of gold and silver brought into general circulation, and of late, the general and extensive use of paper money which represents real specie, produces the same effect as would arise from a still greater increase of it. From this natural depreciation alone of the value of coin, it follows that were all other circumstances to have continued the same, the relative value of money would have decreased, or a greater number of pieces of the same denomination would be now required to produce the same effect as formerly, and therefore that it will be necessary to multiply any sum of money of the present age, into some certain number, in order to learn the effect of the same sum in an assigned preceding age.”

From this multiplication, it is demonstrated that

the price of the dozen of ale, for which the Trinity Guild paid 20*d.* is equivalent to something more than 6*d.* a quart ; — the fat sheep at 2*s.* 4*d.* to £1 11*s.* 4*d.* — the seven lambs at 7*s.* to 16*s.* each ; — the thirty chickens at 23*d.* to rather more than 2*s.* 6*d.* the couple ; — the two gallons of cream at 8*d.* to 2*s.* 8*d.* a quart — the half quarter of malt at 2*s.* to £3 4*s.* the quarter ; — the fourteen geese at 4*s.* 3*d.* to nearly 5*s.* each.

In the reign of the Norman kings, articles, but especially corn, were dearer than at present. In Henry the Seventh's reign meat was cheaper, but other articles dearer than at present. We now return to the church of St. Mary.

In the year 1783, the spire, which had several times been injured by lightning, was so much shattered by a fresh stroke as to require to be taken down to the battlements. It was rebuilt, under the direction of an architect of the name of Cheshire, at an expense, exclusive of the old materials, of £245 10*s.* the height of the spire from the ground sixty-one yards. In this church, in which for many years he officiated as curate, is interred the Rev. W. Bickerstaffe, a man of great simplicity of manners, and urbanity of disposition ; who by his laborious and minute researches materially assisted the topographers of Leicester. In this church is a monument of white marble, by Bacon, erected by subscription of the friends and admirers of the late

both parties ; traits, which so far from being peculiar to Richard, marked likewise the other contending houses. Nor did he deviate widely from the manners of the times when he "*waded through slaughter to a throne.*"

A pleasing woody road leads from Bow-Bridge to Danett's Hall, the seat of Edward Alexander, M. D. The ground here rising in a gentle slope obtains a command of the town, and that the dryness of the soil and agreeableness of the situation, mark it as a desirable spot for residence, even the taste of the ancient Romans may prove ; for in the plot of ground known by the name of the "great cherry orchard," remains a relic of one of their houses. This is a fragment of a tessellated floor, discovered a few years ago, but covered over by a former possessor of the estate. It is composed of tesserae of various sizes, forming an elegant geometrical pattern, but how far it extends, has not yet been ascertained

Among the great number of these pavements found at Leicester, are three very perfect ones discovered in the ground belonging to the late Walter Ruding, Esq. adjoining the old Vauxhall, near the West Bridge — they also are composed in curious and exact patterns, and form entire squares ; but are now filled up. Of these, together with that in the great cherry orchard, very accurate plates are given in Nichols's Leicestershire.

To the westward of Danett's Hall, and West Cotes,

in the beginning of the reign of Mary, was held by Henry, duke of Suffolk, with the annual fee of sixty shillings and eight-pence, is now retained only nominally.

Opposite the gateway stands a building, most probably erected by the first of the Bellomonts, though the modern front which meets the eye effectually conceals all the outward traces of antiquity. The inside of the edifice, however, is a room exceedingly curious. Its area is large, being about seventy-eight feet long, twenty-four high, and fifty-one broad. It is framed into a sort of ailes, by two rows of tall and massy oaken pillars, which serve to support a large and weighty covering of slate. This vast room was the ancient hall of the Castle, in which the earls of Leicester, and afterwards the dukes of Lancaster, alternately held their courts, and consumed, in rude but plenteous hospitality, at the head of their visitors or their vassals, the rent of their estates, then usually paid in kind. On the south end appear the traces of a door-way, which probably was the entrance into a gallery that has often, among other purposes, served as an orchestra for the minstrels and musicians of former days. This hall, during the reigns of several of the Lancastrian princes, was the scene of frequent Parliaments, whose transactions our provincial historians have carefully recorded. At present it is used only for the holding the assizes and other county meetings, for which purposes it is,

from its length, so well adapted, that, though the business of the civil and crown bars is carried on at the same time at the opposite ends of the room, the pleadings of the one do not in the least interrupt the pleadings of the other.

The reflecting visitor, who may choose to compare the uses to which this place is now applied, with the purposes for which it was built, will not fail to derive from the comparison so very favorable to the present times, a satisfaction most worthy the benevolent heart. Instead of the rude licentious carousals of the Bellomonts, when the baron domineered, even in drunkenness, over his assembled slaves, we often see large bodies of the inhabitants of the county, men worthy of freedom, and possessing it, assembled to consider with decorum, and to decide with unawed, unbiassed judgment, upon measures of no little importance to the kingdom of England. And instead of the savage violence, or idiot folly which mostly dictated the award of every kind of property in those feudal times, we see happily substituted the fair examination of the witnesses, the eloquent pleadings of the barristers, the learned observations of the judge, and the impartial decisions of the jury, nobly co-operating to investigate truth, and to decide, according to right, the means alike of happiness and virtue. In what manner, and by what degrees, this happy change was effected, the following well-authenticated anecdote may serve to shew :—



Robert de Bellomont, the first earl, sitting in the apartment of the keep of his castle at Leicester, heard a loud shout in the neighbouring fields. Enquiring into the cause, he found that it was given by the partizans of a combatant who was then fighting a duel with his near relation, to ascertain the right to a certain piece of land in St. Mary's field. The cruelty and absurdity of such a mode of decision seems to have been forcibly impressed upon the mind of the earl, by this affecting circumstance; and he agreed with the burgesses and inhabitants of Leicester, on the payment of one penny for every house that had a gabel or gavel in the High-street, (a payment afterwards known by the term *gavel pence*) that all pleas of the above-mentioned nature should be determined by a jury of twenty-four persons.

From the County Hall, or Castle, as it is commonly called, a road to the right leads to an ancient gateway, strongly built, and once furnished with a portcullis, and every requisite for defence. The embattled parapet being much decayed, was taken down a few years ago, and its roof is now reduced to one of an ordinary form. When this alteration was made, the arms of the dukes of Lancaster, by whom the gateway was undoubtedly built, were destroyed on the outside; but on the inside, at the spring of the arch, two mutilated figures, one of a lion, the other of a bear, doubtless some of their de-

vices, still remain. The lion passant, it is well known, formed part of the arms of that family, and the muzzled bear was a symbol used on the seal by Edward the First in his transactions with Scotland. Nothing can be more probable than that the Lancastrian princes would ornament their buildings with a figure which would serve to preserve the memory of their descent from so renowned a monarch.

The stranger must now be requested to pass through the uninviting door-way of the adjoining public house, and he will be led by an easy ascent up to the *Mount*, or perhaps the scite of the keep of the Castle, which, though lately lowered considerably for the purpose of converting it into a Bowling-green, yet affords a pleasant station for a view of the environs of Leicester, and is the spot from which the best idea can be formed of the ancient form and boundaries of the fortifications. That this Mount is not artificial, is proved by the circumstance of a well now existing on its summit.

It is well known that the Saxons built few or no castles, for having nearly exterminated the Britons, during the long continued warfare that preceded their conquest of that people, they had no occasion for strong fortresses to secure the possession of the territories they had acquired; and in the later ages of their dynasty, they were too indolent and ignorant to undertake such works with spirit and effect, not-

withstanding the frequent inroads of the Danes rendered such places of retreat highly necessary, and the great Alfred earnestly recommended their construction. Hence the places of defence found in this island at the Conquest were few in number, and those generally too slight to resist the continued attacks of time. For this reason the antiquary need not endeavour to extend his researches after the state of the Castle of Leicester beyond the time of the arrival of William the Norman. On the division of the provinces made by that monarch, Leicester became part of the royal demesne; a castle was erected, to ensure the submission of the inhabitants, and the wardenship of it entrusted to Hugh Grentemaisnell, baron of Hinckley, who possessed considerable property in the neighbourhood. This castle, like other Norman works of the same kind, would have its barbican or out-work, defending the gate and bridge over the outer ditch, would be commanded by a strong wall, eight or ten feet thick, and between 20 and 30 high, with a parapet, and crennels at the top, towers at proper distances, and a gateway opening into the town. It would, we may presume, extend from the river below to the Newark round by St. Mary's church, and then, turning towards the river again, whose waters were brought by a cut across the morass lying on the west side, to wash that part of the wall, and fill the ditch, would thus enclose what was called the outer bayle or ballium.

Within this, at a distance not now to be ascertained, but probably not less than eighty or an hundred yards, another similar, but perhaps stronger fortification, would extend from, and to the river, and this entered at the gates already described, would enclose the inner bayle, where stood the lofty massy keep, the hall, and all the apartments and rooms belonging to the noble and potent owners. Although the curious will be inclined to join in the pathetic laments of the writer of the *Memoirs of Leicester*, (Throsby) that the just position of the Castle, and its extent in former times, cannot be known; yet strong probability will almost authorize us to believe that the account here given does not vary very widely from the truth; for these conjectures are directly confirmed by the well, still open on the Castle hill or keep, and by the remains of a large cellar, forty-nine feet long and eighteen wide, nearly adjoining the great hall, on the west. That more traces should not be discoverable will not appear surprising, when we consider what effects may be produced by the decays of time and accident, by the accumulation of soil, and encroachments of buildings.

During the disputes concerning the succession, on the death of the Conqueror, the Grentemaisnells seized Leicester Castle, and held it for duke Robert. This subjected it to the fury of the successful partizans of William Rufus, and the Castle lay for some time in a dismantled state. In the next reign it was

in the beginning of the reign of Mary, was held by Henry, duke of Suffolk, with the annual fee of sixty shillings and eight-pence, is now retained only nominally.

Opposite the gateway stands a building, most probably erected by the first of the Bellomonts, though the modern front which meets the eye effectually conceals all the outward traces of antiquity. The inside of the edifice, however, is a room exceedingly curious. Its area is large, being about seventy-eight feet long, twenty-four high, and fifty-one broad. It is framed into a sort of ailes, by two rows of tall and massy oaken pillars, which serve to support a large and weighty covering of slate. This vast room was the ancient hall of the Castle, in which the earls of Leicester, and afterwards the dukes of Lancaster, alternately held their courts, and consumed, in rude but plenteous hospitality, at the head of their visitors or their vassals, the rent of their estates, then usually paid in kind. On the south end appear the traces of a door-way, which probably was the entrance into a gallery that has often, among other purposes, served as an orchestra for the minstrels and musicians of former days. This hall, during the reigns of several of the Lancastrian princes, was the scene of frequent Parliaments, whose transactions our provincial historians have carefully recorded. At present it is used only for the holding the assizes and other county meetings, for which purposes it is,

from its length, so well adapted, that, though the business of the civil and crown bars is carried on at the same time at the opposite ends of the room, the pleadings of the one do not in the least interrupt the pleadings of the other.

The reflecting visitor, who may choose to compare the uses to which this place is now applied, with the purposes for which it was built, will not fail to derive from the comparison so very favorable to the present times, a satisfaction most worthy the benevolent heart. Instead of the rude licentious carousals of the Bellomonts, when the baron domineered, even in drunkenness, over his assembled slaves, we often see large bodies of the inhabitants of the county, men worthy of freedom, and possessing it, assembled to consider with decorum, and to decide with unawed, unbiassed judgment, upon measures of no little importance to the kingdom of England. And instead of the savage violence, or idiot folly which mostly dictated the award of every kind of property in those feudal times, we see happily substituted the fair examination of the witnesses, the eloquent pleadings of the barristers, the learned observations of the judge, and the impartial decisions of the jury, nobly co-operating to investigate truth, and to decide, according to right, the means alike of happiness and virtue. In what manner, and by what degrees, this happy change was effected, the following well-authenticated anecdote may serve to shew :—

in the beginning of the reign of Mary, was held by Henry, duke of Suffolk, with the annual fee of sixty shillings and eight-pence, is now retained only nominally.

Opposite the gateway stands a building, most probably erected by the first of the Bellomonts, though the modern front which meets the eye effectually conceals all the outward traces of antiquity. The inside of the edifice, however, is a room exceedingly curious. Its area is large, being about seventy-eight feet long, twenty-four high, and fifty-one broad. It is framed into a sort of ailes, by two rows of tall and massy oaken pillars, which serve to support a large and weighty covering of slate. This vast room was the ancient hall of the Castle, in which the earls of Leicester, and afterwards the dukes of Lancaster, alternately held their courts, and consumed, in rude but plenteous hospitality, at the head of their visitors or their vassals, the rent of their estates, then usually paid in kind. On the south end appear the traces of a door-way, which probably was the entrance into a gallery that has often, among other purposes, served as an orchestra for the minstrels and musicians of former days. This hall, during the reigns of several of the Lancastrian princes, was the scene of frequent Parliaments, whose transactions our provincial historians have carefully recorded. At present it is used only for the holding the assizes and other county meetings, for which purposes it is,

the suburbs of the town, on the south by the fields, and on the west by the river.

Judging from what remains of these walls, we feel inclined to maintain that they were rather calculated to enclose, than strongly protect, the buildings they surrounded ; for if the walls now standing be the original walls, they were not capable of resisting the modes of attack usually practised in the age in which they were built ; nor is the gateway that still remains entire, formed with towers to command, or with grooves for a portcullis to defend, the entrance. Indeed if the state of England during the age of the founders be considered, magnificence rather than great strength might be expected to be their object, and magnificent truly were the buildings of the Newark. The gateway known by the name of the *Magazine*, from the circumstance of its being the arsenal of the county, is large and spacious, yet grandly massive ; and the form of its arches, which partake of the style of the most modern gothic, though built at the time when, according to the opinions of the most learned antiquaries, that truly beautiful species of architecture was not generally established, prove the ready attention of the founders to the progress of the arts.

This gateway led to an area, which though nearly surrounded by buildings, was much more spacious than the present wide street, an area worthy the dukes of Lancaster. On the south another gate,



withstanding the frequent inroads of the Danes rendered such places of retreat highly necessary, and the great Alfred earnestly recommended their construction. Hence the places of defence found in this island at the Conquest were few in number, and those generally too slight to resist the continued attacks of time. For this reason the antiquary need not endeavour to extend his researches after the state of the Castle of Leicester beyond the time of the arrival of William the Norman. On the division of the provinces made by that monarch, Leicester became part of the royal demesne; a castle was erected, to ensure the submission of the inhabitants, and the wardenship of it entrusted to Hugh Grentemaisnell, baron of Hinckley, who possessed considerable property in the neighbourhood. This castle, like other Norman works of the same kind, would have its barbican or out-work, defending the gate and bridge over the outer ditch, would be commanded by a strong wall, eight or ten feet thick, and between 20 and 30 high, with a parapet, and crennels at the top, towers at proper distances, and a gateway opening into the town. It would, we may presume, extend from the river below to the Newark round by St. Mary's church, and then, turning towards the river again, whose waters were brought by a cut across the morass lying on the west side, to wash that part of the wall, and fill the ditch, would thus enclose what was called the outer bayle or ballium.

Within this, at a distance not now to be ascertained, but probably not less than eighty or an hundred yards, another similar, but perhaps stronger fortification, would extend from, and to the river, and this entered at the gates already described, would enclose the inner bayle, where stood the lofty massy keep, the hall, and all the apartments and rooms belonging to the noble and potent owners. Although the curious will be inclined to join in the pathetic laments of the writer of the *Memoirs of Leicester*, (Throsby) that the just position of the Castle, and its extent in former times, cannot be known; yet strong probability will almost authorize us to believe that the account here given does not vary very widely from the truth; for these conjectures are directly confirmed by the well, still open on the Castle hill or keep, and by the remains of a large cellar, forty-nine feet long and eighteen wide, nearly adjoining the great hall, on the west. That more traces should not be discoverable will not appear surprising, when we consider what effects may be produced by the decays of time and accident, by the accumulation of soil, and encroachments of buildings.

During the disputes concerning the succession, on the death of the Conqueror, the Grentemaisnells seized Leicester Castle, and held it for duke Robert. This subjected it to the fury of the successful partizans of William Rufus, and the Castle lay for some time in a dismantled state. In the next reign it was

granted by Henry to his favourite Robert, first earl of Leicester, who repaired the damages, and it became the principal place of residence of himself and the second earl, Robert Bossu. The third earl, Robert, surnamed Blanchmains, encreased his property and power, by his marriage with Petronilla, or Parnel, the heiress of the Grentemaisnells, but the violent temper of this earl involved him in disputes with king Henry the Second, whose forces under the command of the chief justiciary, Richard de Lucy, took Leicester and its Castle by assault, and reduced both to an almost uninhabited heap of ruins. Blanchmains regained, however, the favor of his king, and was restored to his estates, but both he and his son, Robert Fitz-Parnel, engaging in the crusades, the town of Leicester was but ill rebuilt, and the Castle remained in a state of dilapidation for many years. Fitz-Parnel dying without issue, the honor of Leicester, as part of the Bellomont estates were called, passed into the family of Simon de Montfort, in consequence of his marriage with one of the sisters of Fitz-Parnels. But the Montfort earls of Leicester, both father and son, were too much engaged in the busy transactions of their times to pay much attention to their property at Leicester. After the death of the latter, in the battle of Evesham, the Leicester property was conferred by Henry the Third on his second son Edmond, earl of Lancaster, whose second son Henry, heir and successor to Thomas

earl of Lancaster, beheaded at Pontefract, in the year 1322 made Leicester his principal place of residence, and under him and the two next succeeding earls, the Castle recovered and probably surpassed its former state of splendor.

When the dukes of Lancaster ascended the throne, Leicester, though frequently honored with their presence, received no permanent benefit, and though several Parliaments were held there in the reign of Henry the Sixth, the Castle had so far decayed in the time of Richard the Third, that that monarch chose rather to sleep at an inn a few evenings before his fall, than occupy the royal apartments in the Castle. From this time the Castle seems to have made constant progress to decay, so that in the reign of Charles the First, orders, dated the ninth of his reign, were issued to the sheriff, Wm. Herrick, Esq. of Beaumanor (as appears from papers in the possession of that family) "to take down the old peices of our Castle at Leicester, to repair the Castle house, wherein the audit hath been formerly kept, and is hereafter to be kept, and wherein our records of the honor of Leicester do now remain; to sell the stones, timber, &c. but not to interfere with the vault there, nor the stairs leading therefrom."

From others of the same papers it appears that the timber sold for £3. 5s. 8d. the freestone and iron work for £36. 14s. 4d. and that the repairs above ordered cost about £50. Thus was the Castle reduced to

nearly its present state, and though the antiquary may in the eagerness of his curiosity lament that so little of it now remains, yet he must surely rejoice in his reflecting moments that such structures are not now necessary for the defence of the kingdom, and that the fortunes of the noblemen are now spent in a way calculated to encourage the arts and promote industry, rather than in maintaining in these castles a set of idle retainers, ever ready to assist them in disturbing the peace of the realm, and still more ready to insult and injure the humble inhabitants in their neighbourhood.

Descending from the Castle Mount, and passing through the south gateway of the Castle Yard, the visitor enters a district of the town called

### THE NEWARK,

(or New Work) because the edifices it contained were new when compared with the buildings of the Castle. They owed their foundation to Henry, the third earl of Lancaster, and his son Henry, first duke of that title. By these two noblemen they were nearly finished, and what was wanting towards their completion was afterwards added by John of Gaunt. They must then have formed a magnificent addition to the ancient dignity of the Castle. The remains of the walls which enclosed this area enable us to affirm that its form was a long square, bounded on the north by the Castle, on the east by the streets of

the suburbs of the town, on the south by the fields, and on the west by the river.

Judging from what remains of these walls, we feel inclined to maintain that they were rather calculated to enclose, than strongly protect, the buildings they surrounded ; for if the walls now standing be the original walls, they were not capable of resisting the modes of attack usually practised in the age in which they were built ; nor is the gateway that still remains entire, formed with towers to command, or with grooves for a portcullis to defend, the entrance. Indeed if the state of England during the age of the founders be considered, magnificence rather than great strength might be expected to be their object, and magnificent truly were the buildings of the Newark. The gateway known by the name of the *Magazine*, from the circumstance of its being the arsenal of the county, is large and spacious, yet grandly massive ; and the form of its arches, which partake of the style of the most modern gothic, though built at the time when, according to the opinions of the most learned antiquaries, that truly beautiful species of architecture was not generally established, prove the ready attention of the founders to the progress of the arts.

This gateway led to an area, which though nearly surrounded by buildings, was much more spacious than the present wide street, an area worthy the dukes of Lancaster. On the south another gate,

passed them in the expedition of our mails, and all the conveniences and comforts of travelling.

On turning towards the West, the lover of contrast may for a moment call to his imagination the dark, heavy, and almost impenetrable forest which covered these lands in the twelfth century, and depict figures of the inhabitants of Leicester bearing from thence their allowed load of wood, the supply for their hearths, and for this privilege paying at the West Bridge their toll of *brigg silver* to their feudal baron. To this picture he will oppose the present scene of pasturage, flocks, and free husbandmen, cultivating the earth under the protection of just and equal laws. The slightest glance at past ages is a moral study, that renders us not only satisfied but grateful.

We cannot pass West Cotes, without noticing an object in the possession of the late Mr. Ruding, highly interesting to the admirers of the fine arts. This is a picture in painted glass, representing Mutius Scævola affording Porsena an astonishing proof of his resolution, by burning that hand which had assassinated the secretary instead of the king. The exquisite finish, and perfect preservation of this small piece, bespeak it of the ancient Flemish school, whose artists, according to Guicciardini, invented the mode of burning their colours into the glass, so as to secure them from the corrosion of water, wind, or even time. There is no department of the

Within this, at a distance not now to be ascertained, but probably not less than eighty or an hundred yards, another similar, but perhaps stronger fortification, would extend from, and to the river, and this entered at the gates already described, would enclose the inner bayle, where stood the lofty massy keep, the hall, and all the apartments and rooms belonging to the noble and potent owners. Although the curious will be inclined to join in the pathetic laments of the writer of the *Memoirs of Leicester*, (Throsby) that the just position of the Castle, and its extent in former times, cannot be known; yet strong probability will almost authorize us to believe that the account here given does not vary very widely from the truth; for these conjectures are directly confirmed by the well, still open on the Castle hill or keep, and by the remains of a large cellar, forty-nine feet long and eighteen wide, nearly adjoining the great hall, on the west. That more traces should not be discoverable will not appear surprising, when we consider what effects may be produced by the decays of time and accident, by the accumulation of soil, and encroachments of buildings.

During the disputes concerning the succession, on the death of the Conqueror, the Grentemaisnells seized Leicester Castle, and held it for duke Robert. This subjected it to the fury of the successful partizans of William Rufus, and the Castle lay for some time in a dismantled state. In the next reign it was



granted by Henry to his favourite Robert, first earl of Leicester, who repaired the damages, and it became the principal place of residence of himself and the second earl, Robert Bossu. The third earl, Robert, surnamed Blanchmains, encreased his property and power, by his marriage with Petronilla, or Parnel, the heiress of the Grentemaisnells, but the violent temper of this earl involved him in disputes with king Henry the Second, whose forces under the command of the chief justiciary, Richard de Lucy, took Leicester and its Castle by assault, and reduced both to an almost uninhabited heap of ruins. Blanchmains regained, however, the favor of his king, and was restored to his estates, but both he and his son, Robert Fitz-Parnel, engaging in the crusades, the town of Leicester was but ill rebuilt, and the Castle remained in a state of dilapidation for many years. Fitz-Parnel dying without issue, the honor of Leicester, as part of the Bellomont estates were called, passed into the family of Simon de Montfort, in consequence of his marriage with one of the sisters of Fitz-Parnels. But the Montfort earls of Leicester, both father and son, were too much engaged in the busy transactions of their times to pay much attention to their property at Leicester. After the death of the latter, in the battle of Evesham, the Leicester property was conferred by Henry the Third on his second son Edmond, earl of Lancaster, whose second son Henry, heir and successor to Thomas

earl of Lancaster, beheaded at Pontefract, in the year 1322 made Leicester his principal place of residence, and under him and the two next succeeding earls, the Castle recovered and probably surpassed its former state of splendor.

When the dukes of Lancaster ascended the throne, Leicester, though frequently honored with their presence, received no permanent benefit, and though several Parliaments were held there in the reign of Henry the Sixth, the Castle had so far decayed in the time of Richard the Third, that that monarch chose rather to sleep at an inn a few evenings before his fall, than occupy the royal apartments in the Castle. From this time the Castle seems to have made constant progress to decay, so that in the reign of Charles the First, orders, dated the ninth of his reign, were issued to the sheriff, Wm. Herrick, Esq. of Beaumanor (as appears from papers in the possession of that family) "to take down the old peices of our Castle at Leicester, to repair the Castle house, wherein the audit hath been formerly kept, and is hereafter to be kept, and wherein our records of the honor of Leicester do now remain; to sell the stones, timber, &c. but not to interfere with the vault there, nor the stairs leading therefrom."

From others of the same papers it appears that the timber sold for £3. 5s. 8d. the freestone and iron work for £36. 14s. 4d. and that the repairs above ordered cost about £50. Thus was the Castle reduced to

nearly its present state, and though the antiquary may in the eagerness of his curiosity lament that so little of it now remains, yet he must surely rejoice in his reflecting moments that such structures are not now necessary for the defence of the kingdom, and that the fortunes of the noblemen are now spent in a way calculated to encourage the arts and promote industry, rather than in maintaining in these castles a set of idle retainers, ever ready to assist them in disturbing the peace of the realm, and still more ready to insult and injure the humble inhabitants in their neighbourhood.

Descending from the Castle Mount, and passing through the south gateway of the Castle Yard, the visitor enters a district of the town called

### THE NEWARK,

(or New Work) because the edifices it contained were new when compared with the buildings of the Castle. They owed their foundation to Henry, the third earl of Lancaster, and his son Henry, first duke of that title. By these two noblemen they were nearly finished, and what was wanting towards their completion was afterwards added by John of Gaunt. They must then have formed a magnificent addition to the ancient dignity of the Castle. The remains of the walls which enclosed this area enable us to affirm that its form was a long square, bounded on the north by the Castle, on the east by the streets of

the suburbs of the town, on the south by the fields, and on the west by the river.

Judging from what remains of these walls, we feel inclined to maintain that they were rather calculated to enclose, than strongly protect, the buildings they surrounded ; for if the walls now standing be the original walls, they were not capable of resisting the modes of attack usually practised in the age in which they were built ; nor is the gateway that still remains entire, formed with towers to command, or with grooves for a portcullis to defend, the entrance. Indeed if the state of England during the age of the founders be considered, magnificence rather than great strength might be expected to be their object, and magnificent truly were the buildings of the Newark. The gateway known by the name of the *Magazine*, from the circumstance of its being the arsenal of the county, is large and spacious, yet grandly massive ; and the form of its arches, which partake of the style of the most modern gothic, though built at the time when, according to the opinions of the most learned antiquaries, that truly beautiful species of architecture was not generally established, prove the ready attention of the founders to the progress of the arts.

This gateway led to an area, which though nearly surrounded by buildings, was much more spacious than the present wide street, an area worthy the dukes of Lancaster. On the south another gate,

withstanding the frequent inroads of the Danes rendered such places of retreat highly necessary, and the great Alfred earnestly recommended their construction. Hence the places of defence found in this island at the Conquest were few in number, and those generally too slight to resist the continued attacks of time. For this reason the antiquary need not endeavour to extend his researches after the state of the Castle of Leicester beyond the time of the arrival of William the Norman. On the division of the provinces made by that monarch, Leicester became part of the royal demesne; a castle was erected, to ensure the submission of the inhabitants, and the wardenship of it entrusted to Hugh Grentemaisnell, baron of Hinckley, who possessed considerable property in the neighbourhood. This castle, like other Norman works of the same kind, would have its barbican or out-work, defending the gate and bridge over the outer ditch, would be commanded by a strong wall, eight or ten feet thick, and between 20 and 30 high, with a parapet, and crennels at the top, towers at proper distances, and a gateway opening into the town. It would, we may presume, extend from the river below to the Newark round by St. Mary's church, and then, turning towards the river again, whose waters were brought by a cut across the morass lying on the west side, to wash that part of the wall, and fill the ditch, would thus enclose what was called the outer bayle or ballium.

Within this, at a distance not now to be ascertained, but probably not less than eighty or an hundred yards, another similar, but perhaps stronger fortification, would extend from, and to the river, and this entered at the gates already described, would enclose the inner bayle, where stood the lofty massy keep, the hall, and all the apartments and rooms belonging to the noble and potent owners. Although the curious will be inclined to join in the pathetic laments of the writer of the *Memoirs of Leicester*, (Throsby) that the just position of the Castle, and its extent in former times, cannot be known; yet strong probability will almost authorize us to believe that the account here given does not vary very widely from the truth; for these conjectures are directly confirmed by the well, still open on the Castle hill or keep, and by the remains of a large cellar, forty-nine feet long and eighteen wide, nearly adjoining the great hall, on the west. That more traces should not be discoverable will not appear surprising, when we consider what effects may be produced by the decays of time and accident, by the accumulation of soil, and encroachments of buildings.

During the disputes concerning the succession, on the death of the Conqueror, the Grentemaisnells seized Leicester Castle, and held it for duke Robert. This subjected it to the fury of the successful partizans of William Rufus, and the Castle lay for some time in a dismantled state. In the next reign it was

granted by Henry to his favourite Robert, first earl of Leicester, who repaired the damages, and it became the principal place of residence of himself and the second earl, Robert Bossu. The third earl, Robert, surnamed Blanchmains, encreased his property and power, by his marriage with Petronilla, or Parnel, the heiress of the Grentemaisnells, but the violent temper of this earl involved him in disputes with king Henry the Second, whose forces under the command of the chief justiciary, Richard de Lucy, took Leicester and its Castle by assault, and reduced both to an almost uninhabited heap of ruins. Blanchmains regained, however, the favor of his king, and was restored to his estates, but both he and his son, Robert Fitz-Parnel, engaging in the crusades, the town of Leicester was but ill rebuilt, and the Castle remained in a state of dilapidation for many years. Fitz-Parnel dying without issue, the *honor* of Leicester, as part of the Bellomont estates were called, passed into the family of Simon de Montfort, in consequence of his marriage with one of the sisters of Fitz-Parnels. But the Montfort earls of Leicester, both father and son, were too much engaged in the busy transactions of their times to pay much attention to their property at Leicester. After the death of the latter, in the battle of Evesham, the Leicester property was conferred by Henry the Third on his second son Edmond, earl of Lancaster, whose second son Henry, heir and successor to Thomas

earl of Lancaster, beheaded at Pontefract, in the year 1322 made Leicester his principal place of residence, and under him and the two next succeeding earls, the Castle recovered and probably surpassed its former state of splendor.

When the dukes of Lancaster ascended the throne, Leicester, though frequently honored with their presence, received no permanent benefit, and though several Parliaments were held there in the reign of Henry the Sixth, the Castle had so far decayed in the time of Richard the Third, that that monarch chose rather to sleep at an inn a few evenings before his fall, than occupy the royal apartments in the Castle. From this time the Castle seems to have made constant progress to decay, so that in the reign of Charles the First, orders, dated the ninth of his reign, were issued to the sheriff, Wm. Herrick, Esq. of Beaumanor (as appears from papers in the possession of that family) "to take down the old peices of our Castle at Leicester, to repair the Castle house, wherein the audit hath been formerly kept, and is hereafter to be kept, and wherein our records of the honor of Leicester do now remain; to sell the stones, timber, &c. but not to interfere with the vault there, nor the stairs leading therefrom."

From others of the same papers it appears that the timber sold for £3. 5s. 8d. the freestone and iron work for £36. 14s. 4d. and that the repairs above ordered cost about £50. Thus was the Castle reduced to



the price of the dozen of ale, for which the Trinity Guild paid 20*d.* is equivalent to something more than 6*d.* a quart; — the fat sheep at 2*s.* 4*d.* to £1 11*s.* 4*d.* — the seven lambs at 7*s.* to 16*s.* each; — the thirty chickens at 23*d.* to rather more than 2*s.* 6*d.* the couple; — the two gallons of cream at 8*d.* to 2*s.* 8*d.* a quart — the half quarter of malt at 2*s.* to £3 4*s.* the quarter; — the fourteen geese at 4*s.* 3*d.* to nearly 5*s.* each.

In the reign of the Norman kings, articles, but especially corn, were dearer than at present. In Henry the Seventh's reign meat was cheaper, but other articles dearer than at present. We now return to the church of St. Mary.

In the year 1783, the spire, which had several times been injured by lightning, was so much shattered by a fresh stroke as to require to be taken down to the battlements. It was rebuilt, under the direction of an architect of the name of Cheshire, at an expense, exclusive of the old materials, of £245 10*s.* the height of the spire from the ground sixty-one yards. In this church, in which for many years he officiated as curate, is interred the Rev. W. Bickerstaffe, a man of great simplicity of manners, and urbanity of disposition; who by his laborious and minute researches materially assisted the topographers of Leicester. In this church is a monument of white marble, by Bacon, erected by subscription of the friends and admirers of the late

the suburbs of the town, on the south by the fields, and on the west by the river.

Judging from what remains of these walls, we feel inclined to maintain that they were rather calculated to enclose, than strongly protect, the buildings they surrounded ; for if the walls now standing be the original walls, they were not capable of resisting the modes of attack usually practised in the age in which they were built ; nor is the gateway that still remains entire, formed with towers to command, or with grooves for a portcullis to defend, the entrance. Indeed if the state of England during the age of the founders be considered, magnificence rather than great strength might be expected to be their object, and magnificent truly were the buildings of the Newark. The gateway known by the name of the *Magazine*, from the circumstance of its being the arsenal of the county, is large and spacious, yet grandly massive ; and the form of its arches, which partake of the style of the most modern gothic, though built at the time when, according to the opinions of the most learned antiquaries, that truly beautiful species of architecture was not generally established, prove the ready attention of the founders to the progress of the arts.

This gateway led to an area, which though nearly surrounded by buildings, was much more spacious than the present wide street, an area worthy the dukes of Lancaster. On the south another gate,

similar to the Magazine now standing, opened into the court opposite the strong south gate of the Castle and on the west rose a college, a church, and an hospital, which completed the grandeur of the Newark. These latter buildings formed a lesser quadrangle or court, having on the north the present old, or *Trinity Hospital*, built and endowed for an hundred poor people, and ten women to serve them. On the south stood a church dedicated to St. Mary, and cloysters; the former called by Leland "not large but faire;" the "floures and knottes in whose vault were gilded," he says, by the rich cardinal of Winchester; the latter, (the cloysters,) were both "large and faire" the houses in the compase of the area of the college for Prebendaries (standing on the west side) the same author says, "be very praty," and the walls and gates of the college occupying the east side of the court, he says, "be very stately." Nor did the princes of Lancaster limit their designs to magnificent structures; this college was as well filled as the hospital, for it contained a dean and twelve prebendaries; thirteen vicars choral, three clerks, six choristers and one verger, in all thirty-six persons; and the endowment was adequate to the establishment, for the revenues at the dissolution amounted to £595. 12s. 11d. Among the various donations to this college, the following taken from the Parliamentary rolls of the year 1450, will not be found unworthy the attention of the curious. The king

(Henry the Seventh) grants to the dean and canons of the church collegiate of our lady at Leicester, "a tunne of wynne to be taken by the chief botteller of England in our port at Kingston upon Hull," and it is added "they never had no wynne granted to them by us nor our progenitors afore this time to sing with, nor otherwise."

When it is considered that the Castle just surveyed occupies a station most pleasant as well as commanding; that from the buildings of the Newark it derived all the splendor which the arts and taste of the times could bestow, and that its adjoining a large, well fortified, and not ill built town, was calculated to contribute most essentially to the convenience of its possessors, it will appear to have been one of the most agreeable residences in the kingdom for such powerful noblemen as were the dukes of Lancaster; nor will the visitor be surprised to find that it was occasionally used as a seat by the kings, its owners.

But of all the periods of its history that will surely appear most interesting, in which Henry de Gresmond, first earl of Derby, and on the death of his father, earl and then duke of Lancaster, already renowned through Europe for his achievements in arms, and crowned with laurels from the fields of Guienne, where he taught the English how to conquer at Crecy and Agincourt, returned to reside at Leicester, and to add to the distinction of wise and

brave, the still more valuable title of good, which he was about to earn by the practice of almost every virtue at this place. Then indeed was Leicester Castle the scene of true splendor and magnificence, for it was the scene of bounty influenced by benevolence and guided by religion, of taste supported by expense, yet directed by judgment and regulated by prudence, and of elegance such as the most accomplished knight of that most perfect age of chivalry might be expected to display. This nobleman died of a pestilential disorder at the Castle, in the year 1361, greatly lamented by the inhabitants of Leicester. The order of his funeral appointed by himself, and curiously recorded by our local historians, is a pleasing proof of his good sense and piety; the body being taken in a hearse from St. Mary's near the Castle, to his collegiate church as he directed, "without the pomp of armed men, horses covered, or other vanities" — and the rank of the deceased alone denoted by the magnitude of five tapers, each weighing one hundred pounds, and fifty torches.

The buildings of the Newark continued nearly in the state already described till the dissolution of the monasteries in 1536, when Robert Beone the last dean, terrified by the power of the tyrant Henry, and alarmed by the unjustifiable rigours of the king's commissioners, surrendered his house and received with the rest of his brethren, trifling pensions for life. From this period the buildings of the college

being unsupported by any fund sunk into decay, or were applied to purposes widely different from the intention of the founders. The church, cloysters, and gateway are entirely removed, with the exception of seven arches of the vault under the former, which are still to be seen firm and strong in a cellar of the house, now the property and residence of Mr. Richard Wood.

The Old Hospital itself seems also to have been infected with the contagion of ruin, for though spared by the rapacious hand of Henry, the number of poor in the house, sixty-four men and thirty-six women, are reduced from their original allowance of seven-pence weekly, to the now scanty stipend of two shillings, which arises from the rents of lands and tenements in Leicester, and its vicinity. The house has been reduced to its present form by contracting the dimensions of the old one; for that standing in need of considerable repairs, his late Majesty George III. to whom, as heir to the duchy of Lancaster, the expensive privilege of repairing it belonged, gave the produce of the sale of an estate at Thurnby in this neighbourhood, which had escheated to the crown, for that purpose.

At the east end is a small chapel in which prayers are read twice a day, and where some mutilated monumental figures, probably of the Huntingdon family, are still to be seen.

Nothing farther remains to be noticed concerning

this interesting part of the town, except that the south gateway was beaten down by the king's forces at the storming of the place in the spring of the year 1645, when they left only a part of the jamb on the eastern side standing. One of the prebendal houses on the west side of the ancient quadrangle of the college has, within these few years, been purchased for the vicarage house of St. Mary's parish. Opposite the Old Hospital a house has been lately erected as an Asylum for the reception and education of poor female children.

From the Newark, we proceed along South gate-Street, or

#### HORSEPOOL-STREET.

At the end of this street, situated on a gentle eminence affording the desirable advantages of a dry soil and open air, we perceive one of those edifices which a country more than nominally christian must ever be careful to erect, a house of refuge for sick poverty. The Infirmary, which owes the origin of its institution to W. Watts, M. D. was built in 1771, nearly on the scite of the ancient chapel of St. Sepulchre, and is a plain neat building with two wings, fronted by a garden, the entrance to which is ornamented with a very handsome iron gate the gift of the late truly benevolent Shuckbrugh Ashby, Esq. of Quenby. The house is built upon a plan which for its convenience and utility received the appro-

bation of the great Howard, whose experience and observation qualified him for a competent judge. It is calculated to admit, exclusive of the fever ward, fifty-four patients, without restriction to any county or nation. Its funds, notwithstanding the exemplary liberality it has excited, are, owing to the pressure of the times, scarcely adequate to its support. Adjoining the Infirmary is an Asylum for the reception of indigent Lunatics, and a commodious house for the reception of fever patients.

On the right of the area before the Infirmary is a large building enclosed by lofty walls, for the purpose of a *House of Correction*, before the gate of which, criminals are executed.

At the distance of a quarter of a mile from the Infirmary, are some remains of a Roman labour, called the *Raw Dykes*, these banks of earth four yards in height, running parallel to the extent of 369 yards the space between them 13 yards, were some years ago levelled to the ground except the length of about 150 yards at the end farthest from the town. It was a generally received opinion that they were the fortifications of a Roman camp, till the supposition of their having been a *cursus* or race course, was started by Dr. Stukely. If it is to be admitted that they formed an area for horse races, of which the Romans are known to be extravagantly fond, we may imagine that the sport here practised consisted in horses running at liberty without riders, between the



banks; traces of such a race run in an enclosed space may be found in the *Corso dei Barberi*, now practised in the streets of Florence;\* the Italians having in many instances preserved the original customs of the Romans. But the question must still hang in a balance whether the Raw Dykes were the scene of Roman games, or

The massy mound, the rampart once  
Of iron war in ancient barbarous times.

From the Infirmary we shall conduct our visitor along the street lately built, and called

#### WELFORD-ROAD,

till we arrive at a point from which branch out *Market-Street*, *King-Street*, and *Wellington-Street*, at the top of the last of which is a handsome gothic chapel, lately erected by the *Roman Catholics*.

If he feel inclined to extend his walk, he will find himself recompenced by the pleasure his eye may receive from a lengthened stroll up the public promenade, called the *New Walk*. This walk, three quarters of a mile long, and twenty feet wide, was made by public subscription in 1785; the ground the gift of the corporation.

Following the ascent of the walk, we gain on the left a pleasing peep up a vale watered by the Soar, where the smooth green of the meadows is con-

\* See *Starke's Travels*.

trasted and broken by woody lines, and formed into a picture by the church and village of Aylestone, and the distant tufted eminences decorated by the tower of Narborough. A little imagination might give the scene a trait of the picturesque, by placing among the meadows near Aylestone, the white tents and streaming banners of king Charles' camp, there pitched a few days before his attack on the garrison of Leicester; or it might advance the royal army a little nearer to its station in St. Mary's field, from whence the batteries against the town were first opened. Still continuing to ascend, the walk affords along its curving line many stations from which the town with its churches appears in several pleasing points of view

Returning by the London toll-gate, if the traveller wishes to obtain a full view of a fine prospect, he will turn aside from the road, and mount the steps of one of the neighbouring mills. From such a station the clustered buildings of the town extend before the eye in full unbroken sweep; beyond it the grounds near Beaumont Leys, varied in their tints by tufted hedge-rows, and streaky cultivated fields, blend into the grey softness overspreading those beautiful slopes of hill into which the eminences of Charnwood Forest, Broombriggs, Hunter's Hill, Bradgate Park, Bardon and Markfield Knoll, rise and fall. These hills, running from hence in a northern direction, compose the first part of the

brave, the still more valuable title of good, which he was about to earn by the practice of almost every virtue at this place. Then indeed was Leicester Castle the scene of true splendor and magnificence, for it was the scene of bounty influenced by benevolence and guided by religion, of taste supported by expense, yet directed by judgment and regulated by prudence, and of elegance such as the most accomplished knight of that most perfect age of chivalry might be expected to display. This nobleman died of a pestilential disorder at the Castle, in the year 1361, greatly lamented by the inhabitants of Leicester. The order of his burial was appointed by himself, and is fully recorded by local historians, is a pleasing proof of his piety; the body was interred in the church of St. Mary's near the castle, and he directed that

“... horses carried to the bank of the ... of five tar ... and fifty t ... Newark continued till the dis ... when Robert ... tower of the ... stifiable ... ended ... ns for ... college

being unsupported by any fund sunk into decay, or were applied to purposes widely different from the intention of the founders. The church, cloysters, and gateway are entirely removed, with the exception of seven arches of the vault under the former, which are still to be seen firm and strong in a cellar of the house, now the property and residence of Mr. Richard Wood.

The Old Hospital itself seems also to have been infected with the contagion of ruin, for though spared by the rapacious hand of Henry, the number of poor in the house, sixty-four men and thirty-six women, are reduced from their original allowance of seven-pence weekly, to the now scanty stipend of two shillings, which arises from the rents of lands and tenements in Leicester, and its vicinity. The Hospital has been reduced to its present form by contracting the dimensions of the old one; for that it is in need of considerable repairs, his late Majesty George III. to whom, as heir to the duchy of Lancaster, the expensive privilege of repairing it was granted, gave the produce of the sale of an estate at Barnby in this neighbourhood, which had escheated to the crown, for that purpose.

At the east end is a small chapel in which prayers are read twice a day, and where some mutilated sculptural figures, probably of the Huntingdon family, are still to be seen.

Nothing farther remains to be noticed concerning

brave, the still more valuable title of good, which he was about to earn by the practice of almost every virtue at this place. Then indeed was Leicester Castle the scene of true splendor and magnificence, for it was the scene of bounty influenced by benevolence and guided by religion, of taste supported by expense, yet directed by judgment and regulated by prudence, and of elegance such as the most accomplished knight of that most perfect age of chivalry might be expected to display. This nobleman died of a pestilential disorder at the Castle, in the year 1361, greatly lamented by the inhabitants of Leicester. The order of his funeral appointed by himself, and curiously recorded by our local historians, is a pleasing proof of his good sense and piety; the body being taken in a hearse from St. Mary's near the Castle, to his collegiate church as he directed, "without the pomp of armed men, horses covered, or other vanities" — and the rank of the deceased alone denoted by the magnitude of five tapers, each weighing one hundred pounds, and fifty torches.

The buildings of the Newark continued nearly in the state already described till the dissolution of the monasteries in 1538, when Robert Boone the last dean, terrified by the power of the tyrant Henry, and alarmed by the unjustifiable rigours of the king's commissioners, surrendered his house and received, with the rest of his brethren, trifling pensions for life. From this period the buildings of the college

being unsupported by any fund sunk into decay, or were applied to purposes widely different from the intention of the founders. The church, cloysters, and gateway are entirely removed, with the exception of seven arches of the vault under the former, which are still to be seen firm and strong in a cellar of the house, now the property and residence of Mr. Richard Wood.

The Old Hospital itself seems also to have been infected with the contagion of ruin, for though spared by the rapacious hand of Henry, the number of poor in the house, sixty-four men and thirty-six women, are reduced from their original allowance of seven-pence weekly, to the now scanty stipend of two shillings, which arises from the rents of lands and tenements in Leicester, and its vicinity. The house has been reduced to its present form by contracting the dimensions of the old one; for that standing in need of considerable repairs, his late Majesty George III. to whom, as heir to the duchy of Lancaster, the expensive privilege of repairing it belonged, gave the produce of the sale of an estate at Thurnby in this neighbourhood, which had escheated to the crown, for that purpose.

At the east end is a small chapel in which prayers are read twice a day, and where some mutilated monumental figures, probably of the Huntingdon family, are still to be seen.

Nothing farther remains to be noticed concerning

this interesting part of the town, except that the south gateway was beaten down by the king's forces at the storming of the place in the spring of the year 1645, when they left only a part of the jamb on the eastern side standing. One of the prebendal houses on the west side of the ancient quadrangle of the college has, within these few years, been purchased for the vicarage house of St. Mary's parish. Opposite the Old Hospital a house has been lately erected as an Asylum for the reception and education of poor female children.

From the Newark, we proceed along South gate-Street, or

#### HORSEPOOL-STREET.

At the end of this street, situated on a gentle eminence affording the desirable advantages of a dry soil and open air, we perceive one of those edifices which a country more than nominally christian must ever be careful to erect, a house of refuge for sick poverty. The Infirmary, which owes the origin of its institution to W. Watts, M. D. was built in 1771, nearly on the scite of the ancient chapel of St. Sepulchre, and is a plain neat building with two wings, fronted by a garden, the entrance to which is ornamented with a very handsome iron gate the gift of the late truly benevolent Shuckbrugh Ashby, Esq. of Quenby. The house is built upon a plan which for its convenience and utility received the appro-

earl of Lancaster, beheaded at Pontefract, in the year 1322 made Leicester his principal place of residence, and under him and the two next succeeding earls, the Castle recovered and probably surpassed its former state of splendor.

When the dukes of Lancaster ascended the throne, Leicester, though frequently honored with their presence, received no permanent benefit, and though several Parliaments were held there in the reign of Henry the Sixth, the Castle had so far decayed in the time of Richard the Third, that that monarch chose rather to sleep at an inn a few evenings before his fall, than occupy the royal apartments in the Castle. From this time the Castle seems to have made constant progress to decay, so that in the reign of Charles the First, orders, dated the ninth of his reign, were issued to the sheriff, Wm. Herrick, Esq. of Beaumanor (as appears from papers in the possession of that family) "to take down the old peices of our Castle at Leicester, to repair the Castle house, wherein the audit hath been formerly kept, and is hereafter to be kept, and wherein our records of the honor of Leicester do now remain; to sell the stones, timber, &c. but not to interfere with the vault there, nor the stairs leading therefrom."

From others of the same papers it appears that the timber sold for £3. 5s. 8d. the freestone and iron work for £36. 14s. 4d. and that the repairs above ordered cost about £50. Thus was the Castle reduced to



banks; traces of such a race run in an enclosed space may be found in the *Corso dei Barberi*, now practised in the streets of Florence;\* the Italians having in many instances preserved the original customs of the Romans. But the question must still hang in a balance whether the Raw Dykes were the scene of Roman games, or

The massy mound, the rampart once  
Of iron war in ancient barbarous times.

From the Infirmary we shall conduct our visitor along the street lately built, and called

#### WELFORD-ROAD,

till we arrive at a point from which branch out *Market-Street*, *King-Street*, and *Wellington-Street*, at the top of the last of which is a handsome gothic chapel, lately erected by the *Roman Catholics*.

If he feel inclined to extend his walk, he will find himself recompenced by the pleasure his eye may receive from a lengthened stroll up the public promenade, called the *New Walk*. This walk, three quarters of a mile long, and twenty feet wide, was made by public subscription in 1785; the ground the gift of the corporation.

Following the ascent of the walk, we gain on the left a pleasing peep up a vale watered by the Soar, where the smooth green of the meadows is con-

\* See Starke's Travels.

trasted and broken by woody lines, and formed into a picture by the church and village of Aylestone, and the distant tufted eminences decorated by the tower of Narborough. A little imagination might give the scene a trait of the picturesque, by placing among the meadows near Aylestone, the white tents and streaming banners of king Charles' camp, there pitched a few days before his attack on the garrison of Leicester; or it might advance the royal army a little nearer to its station in St. Mary's field, from whence the batteries against the town were first opened. Still continuing to ascend, the walk affords along its curving line many stations from which the town with its churches appears in several pleasing points of view

Returning by the London toll-gate, if the traveller wishes to obtain a full view of a fine prospect, he will turn aside from the road, and mount the steps of one of the neighbouring mills. From such a station the clustered buildings of the town extend before the eye in full unbroken sweep; beyond it the grounds near Beaumont Leys, varied in their tints by tufted hedge-rows, and streaky cultivated fields, blend into the grey softness overspreading those beautiful slopes of hill into which the eminences of Charnwood Forest, Broombriggs, Hunter's Hill, Bradgate Park, Bardon and Markfield Knoll, rise and fall. These hills, running from hence in a northern direction, compose the first part of the

brave, the still more valuable title of good, which he was about to earn by the practice of almost every virtue at this place. Then indeed was Leicester Castle the scene of true splendor and magnificence, for it was the scene of bounty influenced by benevolence and guided by religion, of taste supported by expense, yet directed by judgment and regulated by prudence, and of elegance such as the most accomplished knight of that most perfect age of chivalry might be expected to display. This nobleman died of a pestilential disorder at the Castle, in the year 1361, greatly lamented by the inhabitants of Leicester. The order of his funeral appointed by himself, and curiously recorded by our local historians, is a pleasing proof of his good sense and piety; the body being taken in a hearse from St. Mary's near the Castle, to his collegiate church as he directed, "without the pomp of armed men, horses covered, or other vanities" — and the rank of the deceased alone denoted by the magnitude of five tapers, each weighing one hundred pounds, and fifty torches.

The buildings of the Newark continued nearly in the state already described till the dissolution of the monasteries in 1536, when Robert Beone the last dean, terrified by the power of the tyrant Henry, and alarmed by the unjustifiable rigours of the king's commissioners, surrendered his house and received with the rest of his brethren, trifling pensions for life. From this period the buildings of the college

being unsupported by any fund sunk into decay, or were applied to purposes widely different from the intention of the founders. The church, cloysters, and gateway are entirely removed, with the exception of seven arches of the vault under the former, which are still to be seen firm and strong in a cellar of the house, now the property and residence of Mr. Richard Wood.

The Old Hospital itself seems also to have been infected with the contagion of ruin, for though spared by the rapacious hand of Henry, the number of poor in the house, sixty-four men and thirty-six women, are reduced from their original allowance of seven-pence weekly, to the now scanty stipend of two shillings, which arises from the rents of lands and tenements in Leicester, and its vicinity. The house has been reduced to its present form by contracting the dimensions of the old one; for that standing in need of considerable repairs, his late Majesty George III. to whom, as heir to the duchy of Lancaster, the expensive privilege of repairing it belonged, gave the produce of the sale of an estate at Thurnby in this neighbourhood, which had escheated to the crown, for that purpose.

At the east end is a small chapel in which prayers are read twice a day, and where some mutilated monumental figures, probably of the Huntingdon family, are still to be seen.

Nothing farther remains to be noticed concerning

this interesting part of the town, except that the south gateway was beaten down by the king's forces at the storming of the place in the spring of the year 1645, when they left only a part of the jamb on the eastern side standing. One of the prebendal houses on the west side of the ancient quadrangle of the college has, within these few years, been purchased for the vicarage house of St. Mary's parish. Opposite the Old Hospital a house has been lately erected as an Asylum for the reception and education of poor female children.

From the Newark, we proceed along South gate-Street, or

#### HORSEPOOL-STREET.

At the end of this street, situated on a gentle eminence affording the desirable advantages of a dry soil and open air, we perceive one of those edifices which a country more than nominally christian must ever be careful to erect, a house of refuge for sick poverty. The Infirmary, which owes the origin of its institution to W. Watts, M. D. was built in 1771, nearly on the scite of the ancient chapel of St. Sepulchre, and is a plain neat building with two wings, fronted by a garden, the entrance to which is ornamented with a very handsome iron gate the gift of the late truly benevolent Shuckbrugh Ashby, Esq. of Quenby. The house is built upon a plan which for its convenience and utility received the appro-

bation of the great Howard, whose experience and observation qualified him for a competent judge. It is calculated to admit, exclusive of the fever ward, fifty-four patients, without restriction to any county or nation. Its funds, notwithstanding the exemplary liberality it has excited, are, owing to the pressure of the times, scarcely adequate to its support. Adjoining the Infirmary is an Asylum for the reception of indigent Lunatics, and a commodious house for the reception of fever patients.

On the right of the area before the Infirmary is a large building enclosed by lofty walls, for the purpose of a *House of Correction*, before the gate of which, criminals are executed.

At the distance of a quarter of a mile from the Infirmary, are some remains of a Roman labour, called the *Raw Dykes*, these banks of earth four yards in height, running parallel to the extent of 369 yards the space between them 13 yards, were some years ago levelled to the ground except the length of about 150 yards at the end farthest from the town. It was a generally received opinion that they were the fortifications of a Roman camp, till the supposition of their having been a *cursus* or race course, was started by Dr. Stukely. If it is to be admitted that they formed an area for horse races, of which the Romans are known to be extravagantly fond, we may imagine that the sport here practised consisted in horses running at liberty without riders, between the

banks; traces of such a race run in an enclosed space may be found in the *Corso dei Barberi*, now practised in the streets of Florence;\* the Italians having in many instances preserved the original customs of the Romans. But the question must still hang in a balance whether the Raw Dykes were the scene of Roman games, or

The massy mound, the rampart once  
Of iron war in ancient barbarous times.

From the Infirmary we shall conduct our visitor along the street lately built, and called

#### WELFORD-ROAD,

till we arrive at a point from which branch out *Market-Street*, *King-Street*, and *Wellington-Street*, at the top of the last of which is a handsome gothic chapel, lately erected by the *Roman Catholics*.

If he feel inclined to extend his walk, he will find himself recompenced by the pleasure his eye may receive from a lengthened stroll up the public promenade, called the *New Walk*. This walk, three quarters of a mile long, and twenty feet wide, was made by public subscription in 1785; the ground the gift of the corporation.

Following the ascent of the walk, we gain on the left a pleasing peep up a vale watered by the Soar, where the smooth green of the meadows is con-

\* See *Starke's Travels*.

trasted and broken by woody lines, and formed into a picture by the church and village of Aylestone, and the distant tufted eminences decorated by the tower of Narborough. A little imagination might give the scene a trait of the picturesque, by placing among the meadows near Aylestone, the white tents and streaming banners of king Charles' camp, there pitched a few days before his attack on the garrison of Leicester; or it might advance the royal army a little nearer to its station in St. Mary's field, from whence the batteries against the town were first opened. Still continuing to ascend, the walk affords along its curving line many stations from which the town with its churches appears in several pleasing points of view

Returning by the London toll-gate, if the traveller wishes to obtain a full view of a fine prospect, he will turn aside from the road, and mount the steps of one of the neighbouring mills. From such a station the clustered buildings of the town extend before the eye in full unbroken sweep; beyond it the grounds near Beaumont Leys, varied in their tints by tufted hedge-rows, and streaky cultivated fields, blend into the grey softness overspreading those beautiful slopes of hill into which the eminences of Charnwood Forest, Broombriggs, Hunter's Hill, Bradgate Park, Bardon and Markfield Knoll, rise and fall. These hills, running from hence in a northern direction, compose the first part of the



brave, the still more valuable title of good, which he was about to earn by the practice of almost every virtue at this place. Then indeed was Leicester Castle the scene of true splendor and magnificence, for it was the scene of bounty influenced by benevolence and guided by religion, of taste supported by expense, yet directed by judgment and regulated by prudence, and of elegance such as the most accomplished knight of that most perfect age of chivalry might be expected to display. This nobleman died of a pestilential disorder at the Castle, in the year 1361, greatly lamented by the inhabitants of Leicester. The order of his funeral appointed by himself, and curiously recorded by our local historians, is a pleasing proof of his good sense and piety; the body being taken in a hearse from St. Mary's near the Castle, to his collegiate church as he directed, "without the pomp of armed men, horses covered, or other vanities" — and the rank of the deceased alone denoted by the magnitude of five tapers, each weighing one hundred pounds, and fifty torches.

The buildings of the Newark continued nearly in the state already described till the dissolution of the monasteries in 1538, when Robert Boone the last dean, terrified by the power of the tyrant Henry, and alarmed by the unjustifiable rigours of the king's commissioners, surrendered his house and received with the rest of his brethren, trifling pensions for life. From this period the buildings of the college

being unsupported by any fund sunk into decay, or were applied to purposes widely different from the intention of the founders. The church, cloysters, and gateway are entirely removed, with the exception of seven arches of the vault under the former, which are still to be seen firm and strong in a cellar of the house, now the property and residence of Mr. Richard Wood.

The Old Hospital itself seems also to have been infected with the contagion of ruin, for though spared by the rapacious hand of Henry, the number of poor in the house, sixty-four men and thirty-six women, are reduced from their original allowance of seven-pence weekly, to the now scanty stipend of two shillings, which arises from the rents of lands and tenements in Leicester, and its vicinity. The house has been reduced to its present form by contracting the dimensions of the old one; for that standing in need of considerable repairs, his late Majesty George III. to whom, as heir to the duchy of Lancaster, the expensive privilege of repairing it belonged, gave the produce of the sale of an estate at Thurnby in this neighbourhood, which had escheated to the crown, for that purpose.

At the east end is a small chapel in which prayers are read twice a day, and where some mutilated monumental figures, probably of the Huntingdon family, are still to be seen.

Nothing farther remains to be noticed concerning

this interesting part of the town, except that the south gateway was beaten down by the king's forces at the storming of the place in the spring of the year 1645, when they left only a part of the jamb on the eastern side standing. One of the prebendal houses on the west side of the ancient quadrangle of the college has, within these few years, been purchased for the vicarage house of St. Mary's parish. Opposite the Old Hospital a house has been lately erected as an Asylum for the reception and education of poor female children.

From the Newark, we proceed along South gate-Street, or

#### HORSEPOOL-STREET.

At the end of this street, situated on a gentle eminence affording the desirable advantages of a dry soil and open air, we perceive one of those edifices which a country more than nominally christian must ever be careful to erect, a house of refuge for sick poverty. The Infirmary, which owes the origin of its institution to W. Watts, M. D. was built in 1771, nearly on the scite of the ancient chapel of St. Sepulchre, and is a plain neat building with two wings, fronted by a garden, the entrance to which is ornamented with a very handsome iron gate the gift of the late truly benevolent Shuckbrugh Ashby, Esq. of Quenby. The house is built upon a plan which for its convenience and utility received the appro-

bation of the great Howard, whose experience and observation qualified him for a competent judge. It is calculated to admit, exclusive of the fever ward, fifty-four patients, without restriction to any county or nation. Its funds, notwithstanding the exemplary liberality it has excited, are, owing to the pressure of the times, scarcely adequate to its support. Adjoining the Infirmary is an Asylum for the reception of indigent Lunatics, and a commodious house for the reception of fever patients.

On the right of the area before the Infirmary is a large building enclosed by lofty walls, for the purpose of a *House of Correction*, before the gate of which, criminals are executed.

At the distance of a quarter of a mile from the Infirmary, are some remains of a Roman labour, called the *Raw Dykes*, these banks of earth four yards in height, running parallel to the extent of 369 yards the space between them 13 yards, were some years ago levelled to the ground except the length of about 150 yards at the end farthest from the town. It was a generally received opinion that they were the fortifications of a Roman camp, till the supposition of their having been a *cursus* or race course, was started by Dr. Stukely. If it is to be admitted that they formed an area for horse races, of which the Romans are known to be extravagantly fond, we may imagine that the sport here practised consisted in horses running at liberty without riders, between the

banks; traces of such a race run in an enclosed space may be found in the *Corso dei Barberi*, now practised in the streets of Florence;\* the Italians having in many instances preserved the original customs of the Romans. But the question must still hang in a balance whether the Raw Dykes were the scene of Roman games, or

The massy mound, the rampart once  
Of iron war in ancient barbarous times.

From the Infirmary we shall conduct our visitor along the street lately built, and called

#### WELFORD-ROAD,

till we arrive at a point from which branch out *Market-Street*, *King-Street*, and *Wellington-Street*, at the top of the last of which is a handsome gothic chapel, lately erected by the *Roman Catholics*.

If he feel inclined to extend his walk, he will find himself recompenced by the pleasure his eye may receive from a lengthened stroll up the public promenade, called the *New Walk*. This walk, three quarters of a mile long, and twenty feet wide, was made by public subscription in 1785; the ground the gift of the corporation.

Following the ascent of the walk, we gain on the left a pleasing peep up a vale watered by the Soar, where the smooth green of the meadows is con-

\* See *Starke's Travels*.

trasted and broken by woody lines, and formed into a picture by the church and village of Aylestone, and the distant tufted eminences decorated by the tower of Narborough. A little imagination might give the scene a trait of the picturesque, by placing among the meadows near Aylestone, the white tents and streaming banners of king Charles' camp, there pitched a few days before his attack on the garrison of Leicester; or it might advance the royal army a little nearer to its station in St. Mary's field, from whence the batteries against the town were first opened. Still continuing to ascend, the walk affords along its curving line many stations from which the town with its churches appears in several pleasing points of view

Returning by the London toll-gate, if the traveller wishes to obtain a full view of a fine prospect, he will turn aside from the road, and mount the steps of one of the neighbouring mills. From such a station the clustered buildings of the town extend before the eye in full unbroken sweep; beyond it the grounds near Beaumont Leys, varied in their tints by tufted hedge-rows, and streaky cultivated fields, blend into the grey softness overspreading those beautiful slopes of hill into which the eminences of Charnwood Forest, Broombriggs, Hunter's Hill, Bradgate Park, Bardon and Markfield Knoll, rise and fall. These hills, running from hence in a northern direction, compose the first part of the

brave, the still more valuable title of good, which he was about to earn by the practice of almost every virtue at this place. Then indeed was Leicester Castle the scene of true splendor and magnificence, for it was the scene of bounty influenced by benevolence and guided by religion, of taste supported by expense, yet directed by judgment and regulated by prudence, and of elegance such as the most accomplished knight of that most perfect age of chivalry might be expected to display. This nobleman died of a pestilential disorder at the Castle, in the year 1361, greatly lamented by the inhabitants of Leicester. The order of his funeral appointed by himself, and curiously recorded by our local historians, is a pleasing proof of his good sense and piety; the body being taken in a hearse from St. Mary's near the Castle, to his collegiate church as he directed, "without the pomp of armed men, horses covered, or other vanities" — and the rank of the deceased alone denoted by the magnitude of five tapers, each weighing one hundred pounds, and fifty torches.

The buildings of the Newarke  
the state already described till  
monasteries in 1538, when  
dean, terrified by the pope  
alarmed by the just  
commenced  
with

being unsupported by any fund sunk into decay, or were applied to purposes widely different from the intention of the founders. The church, cloysters, and gateway are entirely removed, with the exception of seven arches of the vault under the former, which are still to be seen firm and strong in a cellar of the house, now the property and residence of Mr. Richard Wood.

The Old Hospital itself seems also to have been infected with the contagion of ruin, for though spared by the rapacious hand of Henry, the number of poor in the house, sixty-four men and thirty-six women, are reduced from their original allowance of seven-pence weekly, to the now scanty stipend of two shillings, which arises from the rents of lands and tenements in Leicester, and its vicinity. The house has been reduced to its present form by contracting the dimensions of the old one; for that standing in need of considerable repairs, his late Majesty George III. to whom, as heir to the duchy of Lancaster, the expensive privilege of repairing it was given, gave the produce of the sale of an estate in this neighbourhood, which had escheated to the crown, for that purpose.

Just opposite to the small chapel in which prayers are said, and where some mutilated remains, probably of the Huntingdon Hospital, are to be noticed concerning



brave, the still more valuable title of good, which he was about to earn by the practice of almost every virtue at this place. Then indeed was Leicester Castle the scene of true splendor and magnificence, for it was the scene of bounty influenced by benevolence and guided by religion, of taste supported by expense, yet directed by judgment and regulated by prudence, and of elegance such as the most accomplished knight of that most perfect age of chivalry might be expected to display. This nobleman died of a pestilential disorder at the Castle, in the year 1361, greatly lamented by the inhabitants of Leicester. The order of his funeral appointed by himself, and curiously recorded by our local historians, is a pleasing proof of his good sense and piety; the body being taken in a hearse from St. Mary's near the Castle, to his collegiate church as he directed, "without the pomp of armed men, horses covered, or other vanities" — and the rank of the deceased alone denoted by the magnitude of five tapers, each weighing one hundred pounds, and fifty torches.

The buildings of the Newark continued nearly in the state already described till the dissolution of the monasteries in 1538, when Robert Boone the last dean, terrified by the power of the tyrant Henry, and alarmed by the unjustifiable rigours of the king's commissioners, surrendered his house and received with the rest of his brethren, trifling pensions for life. From this period the buildings of the college

being unsupported by any fund sunk into decay, or were applied to purposes widely different from the intention of the founders. The church, cloysters, and gateway are entirely removed, with the exception of seven arches of the vault under the former, which are still to be seen firm and strong in a cellar of the house, now the property and residence of Mr. Richard Wood.

The Old Hospital itself seems also to have been infected with the contagion of ruin, for though spared by the rapacious hand of Henry, the number of poor in the house, sixty-four men and thirty-six women, are reduced from their original allowance of seven-pence weekly, to the now scanty stipend of two shillings, which arises from the rents of lands and tenements in Leicester, and its vicinity. The house has been reduced to its present form by contracting the dimensions of the old one; for that standing in need of considerable repairs, his late Majesty George III. to whom, as heir to the duchy of Lancaster, the expensive privilege of repairing it belonged, gave the produce of the sale of an estate at Thurnby in this neighbourhood, which had escheated to the crown, for that purpose.

At the east end is a small chapel in which prayers are read twice a day, and where some mutilated monumental figures, probably of the Huntingdon family, are still to be seen.

Nothing farther remains to be noticed concerning

this interesting part of the town, except that the south gateway was beaten down by the king's forces at the storming of the place in the spring of the year 1645, when they left only a part of the jamb on the eastern side standing. One of the prebendal houses on the west side of the ancient quadrangle of the college has, within these few years, been purchased for the vicarage house of St. Mary's parish. Opposite the Old Hospital a house has been lately erected as an Asylum for the reception and education of poor female children.

From the Newark, we proceed along South gate-Street, or

#### HORSEPOOL-STREET.

At the end of this street, situated on a gentle eminence affording the desirable advantages of a dry soil and open air, we perceive one of those edifices which a country more than nominally christian must ever be careful to erect, a house of refuge for sick poverty. The Infirmary, which owes the origin of its institution to W. Watts, M. D. was built in 1771, nearly on the scite of the ancient chapel of St. Sepulchre, and is a plain neat building with two wings, fronted by a garden, the entrance to which is ornamented with a very handsome iron gate the gift of the late truly benevolent Shuckbrugh Ashby, Esq. of Quenby. The house is built upon a plan which for its convenience and utility received the appro-

bation of the great Howard, whose experience and observation qualified him for a competent judge. It is calculated to admit, exclusive of the fever ward, fifty-four patients, without restriction to any county or nation. Its funds, notwithstanding the exemplary liberality it has excited, are, owing to the pressure of the times, scarcely adequate to its support. Adjoining the Infirmary is an Asylum for the reception of indigent Lunatics, and a commodious house for the reception of fever patients.

On the right of the area before the Infirmary is a large building enclosed by lofty walls, for the purpose of a *House of Correction*, before the gate of which, criminals are executed.

At the distance of a quarter of a mile from the Infirmary, are some remains of a Roman labour, called the *Raw Dykes*, these banks of earth four yards in height, running parallel to the extent of 369 yards the space between them 13 yards, were some years ago levelled to the ground except the length of about 150 yards at the end farthest from the town. It was a generally received opinion that they were the fortifications of a Roman camp, till the supposition of their having been a *cursus* or race course, was started by Dr. Stukely. If it is to be admitted that they formed an area for horse races, of which the Romans are known to be extravagantly fond, we may imagine that the sport here practised consisted in horses running at liberty without riders, between the

banks; traces of such a race run in an enclosed space may be found in the *Corso dei Barberi*, now practised in the streets of Florence;\* the Italians having in many instances preserved the original customs of the Romans. But the question must still hang in a balance whether the Raw Dykes were the scene of Roman games, or

The massy mound, the rampart once  
Of iron war in ancient barbarous times.

From the Infirmary we shall conduct our visitor along the street lately built, and called

#### WELFORD-ROAD,

till we arrive at a point from which branch out *Market-Street*, *King-Street*, and *Wellington-Street*, at the top of the last of which is a handsome gothic chapel, lately erected by the *Roman Catholics*.

If he feel inclined to extend his walk, he will find himself recompenced by the pleasure his eye may receive from a lengthened stroll up the public promenade, called the *New Walk*. This walk, three quarters of a mile long, and twenty feet wide, was made by public subscription in 1785; the ground the gift of the corporation.

Following the ascent of the walk, we gain on the left a pleasing peep up a vale watered by the Soar, where the smooth green of the meadows is con-

\* See *Starke's Travels*.

trasted and broken by woody lines, and formed into a picture by the church and village of Aylestone, and the distant tufted eminences decorated by the tower of Narborough. A little imagination might give the scene a trait of the picturesque, by placing among the meadows near Aylestone, the white tents and streaming banners of king Charles' camp, there pitched a few days before his attack on the garrison of Leicester; or it might advance the royal army a little nearer to its station in St. Mary's field, from whence the batteries against the town were first opened. Still continuing to ascend, the walk affords along its curving line many stations from which the town with its churches appears in several pleasing points of view

Returning by the London toll-gate, if the traveller wishes to obtain a full view of a fine prospect, he will turn aside from the road, and mount the steps of one of the neighbouring mills. From such a station the clustered buildings of the town extend before the eye in full unbroken sweep; beyond it the grounds near Beaumont Leys, varied in their tints by tufted hedge-rows, and streaky cultivated fields, blend into the grey softness overspreading those beautiful slopes of hill into which the eminences of Charnwood Forest, Broombriggs, Hunter's Hill, Bradgate Park, Bardon and Markfield Knoll, rise and fall. These hills, running from hence in a northern direction, compose the first part of the

chain or ridge that, from the easy irregularity and elegant line it here displays, rises into the more grand and picturesque hills that form the peak of Derbyshire. The Abbey and the adjacent villages vary the scene on the right, from whence it melts away into the blue distance of the neighbourhood of Melton, the north-east part of the county. A spacious flat, of one mile in circumference, on that eminence, is appropriated for the *Race Course*, with a handsome stand, &c.

As we descend along the *London-Road*, watching the hills, more and more hid by the town, the road bends into a curve, and here takes the name of *Granby Street*; many ranges of buildings having been here erected within the last twenty years.

Turning to the left, we enter a new street in which has been erected a handsome chapel of the *Wesleyan Methodists*, capable of containing 3,000 persons. Hence turning to *Belvoir-Street*, we arrive, through *Market-Street*, at

### THE HOTEL,

which name it bears, having been originally designed for that purpose, and it may from the grandeur of its windows, its statues, basso relievos, and other decorations, be justly considered as the first modern architectural ornament of the town. Here a room, whose spacious dimensions (being seventy-five feet by thirty-three) and elegant decorations adapt it in

a distinguished manner for scenes of numerous and polished society, is appropriated to the use of the public balls. Its coved ceiling is enriched with three circular paintings of Aurora, Urania, and Night, from the pencil of Reinagle, who has also graced the walls with paintings of dancing nymphs. Beside the eight beautiful lustres, branches of lights are held by four statues, from the designs of Bacon.—This building has been purchased by the county, and is now fitted up for the reception of the judges of assize, and for the business of the county magistrates.

Adjoining the Hotel, a small *Theatre*, built by J. Johnson, Esq. neatly and commodiously fitted up, nearly on the plan of the London Houses, furnishes the inhabitants of Leicester with a more complete display of the dramatic art than they had before enjoyed, and has been the means of gratifying them by the talents of several performers of the first rate excellence.

Proceeding through a street which now only nominally retains a trace of the monkish establishments that formerly occupied its ground, being called

#### FRIAR-LANE,

we observe a *Charity School*, erected 1791, belonging to the parish of St. Martin, now most effectively flourishing under the zealous superintendence of the present worthy vicar, the Rev. E. T. Vaughan. At the farther and less handsome end of this street is



this interesting part of the town, except that the south gateway was beaten down by the king's forces at the storming of the place in the spring of the year 1645, when they left only a part of the jamb on the eastern side standing. One of the prebendal houses on the west side of the ancient quadrangle of the college has, within these few years, been purchased for the vicarage house of St. Mary's parish. Opposite the Old Hospital a house has been lately erected as an Asylum for the reception and education of poor female children.

From the Newark, we proceed along South gate-Street, or

#### HORSEPOOL-STREET.

At the end of this street, situated on a gentle eminence affording the desirable advantages of a dry soil and open air, we perceive one of those edifices which a country more than nominally christian must ever be careful to erect, a house of refuge for sick poverty. The Infirmary, which owes the origin of its institution to W. Watts, M. D. was built in 1771, nearly on the scite of the ancient chapel of St. Sepulchre, and is a plain neat building with two wings, fronted by a garden, the entrance to which is ornamented with a very handsome iron gate the gift of the late truly benevolent Shuckbrugh Ashby, Esq. of Quenby. The house is built upon a plan which for its convenience and utility received the appro-

nificence, before the zeal of the Reformation, justly excited, but intemperate in its direction, had, during its career against Romish absurdities, destroyed almost every trace of ornament in our churches. And whilst we survey its present few decorations, its brass chandeliers depending from the elegant ceiling of the nave, the beautiful oak corinthian pillars of its altar-piece, which is ornamented with a picture of the Ascension, by Francesco Vanni, (the gift of Sir W. Skeffington, Bart.) and its excellent organ, we can scarcely forbear lamenting the violence with which the magnificent range of steps was torn from its high altar, then hung with draperies of white damask and purple velvet.

Its two other altars,\* its chapels of our *Lady* and *St. George*, one at the east, the other at the west end of the south broad aisle, were also destroyed; the sculptured figures that adorned the pulpit, the tabernacles, and brazen eagles demolished, and as the parochial records testify, 20d. was paid for "cutting the images heads, and taking down the angels wings." In the succeeding century after this sacred structure had exhibited this scene of demolition, it became a theatre of war. Hither fled part of the parliamentary garrison, after being driven by the royalists

\* These altars, dedicated to St. Dunstan and St. Catherine, stood, one where the present vestry is, the other in Herrick's Chancel, so called from its containing the monuments of that ancient family.

banks; traces of such a race run in an enclosed space may be found in the *Corso dei Barberi*, now practised in the streets of Florence;\* the Italians having in many instances preserved the original customs of the Romans. But the question must still hang in a balance whether the Raw Dykes were the scene of Roman games, or

The massy mound, the rampart once  
Of iron war in ancient barbarous times.

From the Infirmary we shall conduct our visitor along the street lately built, and called

### WELFORD-ROAD,

till we arrive at a point from which branch out *Market-Street*, *King-Street*, and *Wellington-Street*, at the top of the last of which is a handsome gothic chapel, lately erected by the *Roman Catholics*.

If he feel inclined to extend his walk, he will find himself recompenced by the pleasure his eye may receive from a lengthened stroll up the public promenade, called the *New Walk*. This walk, three quarters of a mile long, and twenty feet wide, was made by public subscription in 1785; the ground the gift of the corporation.

Following the ascent of the walk, we gain on the left a pleasing peep up a vale watered by the Soar, where the smooth green of the meadows is con-

\* See *Starke's Travels*.

trasted and broken by woody lines, and formed into a picture by the church and village of Aylestone, and the distant tufted eminences decorated by the tower of Narborough. A little imagination might give the scene a trait of the picturesque, by placing among the meadows near Aylestone, the white tents and streaming banners of king Charles' camp, there pitched a few days before his attack on the garrison of Leicester; or it might advance the royal army a little nearer to its station in St. Mary's field, from whence the batteries against the town were first opened. Still continuing to ascend, the walk affords along its curving line many stations from which the town with its churches appears in several pleasing points of view

Returning by the London toll-gate, if the traveller wishes to obtain a full view of a fine prospect, he will turn aside from the road, and mount the steps of one of the neighbouring mills. From such a station the clustered buildings of the town extend before the eye in full unbroken sweep; beyond it the grounds near Beaumont Leys, varied in their tints by tufted hedge-rows, and streaky cultivated fields, blend into the grey softness overspreading those beautiful slopes of hill into which the eminences of Charnwood Forest, Broombriggs, Hunter's Hill, Bradgate Park, Bardon and Markfield Knoll, rise and fall. These hills, running from hence in a northern direction, compose the first part of the

which is that of Sir Thomas White, knight, citizen and merchant tailor, of London, who, among many magnificent charities, bequeathed £10,000 in the trust of the Corporation, to be lent without interest in sums of £50 and £40 to every freeman of Leicester, for the term of nine years ; a charity of peculiar value, as it affords a perpetual incitement to the exertions of rising industry.

The Magistracy of Leicester is an institution of great antiquity and respectability, being a corporation by prescription, dating its establishment from immemorial usage before its first charter in the reign of King John.

By forming cities and towns into corporations, and conferring on them the privileges of municipal jurisdiction, the first check was given to the overwhelming evils of the feudal system ; and under their influence freedom and independence began to peep forth from amid the rigours of slavery and the miseries of oppression.

To be free of any corporation was not then, as at present, merely to enjoy some privileges in trade, or to exercise the right of voting on particular occasions, but it was to be exempt from the hardships of feudal service ; to have the right of disposing both of person and property, and to be governed by laws, intended to promote the general good, and not to gratify the ambition and avarice of individuals. These laws, however rude and imperfect, tended to

afford security to property, and encourage men to habits of industry. Thus commerce, with every ornamental and useful art, began first in corporate bodies, to animate society. But in those dark ages, force was necessary to defend the claims of industry ; and such a force these municipal societies possessed ; for their towns were not only defended by walls and gates vigilantly guarded by the citizens, but oft-times at the head of their fellow freemen in arms, the mayor, aldermen, or other officers marched forth in firm array to assert their rights, defend their property, and teach the proudest and most powerful baron that the humblest freeman was not to be injured with impunity. It was thus the commons learned and proved they were not objects of contempt ; nay that they were beings of the same species as the greatest lords.

It is pleasingly curious to observe in these times the shadow of the semblance of this most useful military power preserved as at Leicester, in the array of a few of the poor men of Trinity Hospital, clad in pieces of iron armour, attending the beadle while he proclaims a fair ; nor is it less so to recollect that the feasts annually given by the Mayor were once held in imitation of the rude hospitality of the Barons, whose feasts not a little contributed to give a consequence to the commons of England, and to humanize the haughty chief by shewing him that respectability might belong to those who did not

wield the sword, and that men might have dignity, even though they had no pretensions to the glare of titles and the illusions of birth. Thus will the intelligent observer find, that corporate bodies were the true sources of law, liberty and civilization, and by rendering the occupation of trade respectable, they may be deemed the first origin of that commerce which has rendered Great Britain the most powerful and most happy nation of the earth.

These few reflections we will suppose to have occupied the time during the short walk from St. Martin's Church to

#### THE MARKET-PLACE.

In this spacious area, which is surrounded by handsome and well-furnished shops, and whose public ornaments are the plain but respectable building called the *Exchange*, built in 1747, where the Town Magistrates transact their weekly business, and a small octagon edifice enclosing a reservoir of pure water, the *Conduit*, erected in 1709.

We must, having completed the circuit of the town, offer a farewell to our visitor.

Here closing our little tour, which has engaged us in an imaginary acquaintance with the intelligent stranger, we beg he will accept a friendly adieu ; and a wish, that as he quits the town through which we have conducted him, and which we have endeavoured to represent in a view not unworthy the

attention of a mind that seeks for more than mere passing ideas of amusement, he may not consider that time as prodigally spent which he has passed in his **WALK THROUGH LEICESTER.**

---

#### **HISTORICAL SKETCH OF THE CORPORATION OF LEICESTER.**

The Corporation of Leicester is supposed to be one of the most ancient in the kingdom ; the date of its formation is unknown, but it is conjectured that the Body Politic, having existed a considerable time as a Guild of Merchants, was incorporated in the reign of King John ; in the first year of whose reign, a charter appears for rendering valid the sale of lands in the Borough of Leicester ; and in the same year another charter for the free passage and trading of the Burgesses of Leicester through the whole kingdom, without paying any manner of toll, stallage, &c. Upon this latter charter all Freemen of Leicester ground their present right of passing toll-free at fairs and markets.

A variety of charters were granted by succeeding Monarchs, establishing in different ways the rights and privileges of the Corporation and Burgesses of Leicester, between the time of King John and the



41st year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth. In that year it would seem, that the Corporation feeling that their system required to be new modelled, and their privileges established on a firm basis, solicited of the Crown the great charter by which their whole affairs are at the present time governed, and under which they claim most of the privileges and immunities they now possess.

By this charter the Body Politic was in the first place incorporated by the name it now bears of "The Mayor, Bailiffs, and Burgesses of the Borough of Leicester," and a right given them to hold lands and tenements in mortmain, and to part with, and dispose of the same at their pleasure, and also to prosecute or defend any action in any court or place in the land. Their constitution was then declared to be one Mayor, two Bailiffs, twenty-four Aldermen, and forty-eight Common Council men, and the rules now in force for the election of their officers were established—the several offices of Recorder, Steward, Town Clerk, and of the five Sergeants at Mace were then supplied, and rules ordained for their respective elections. The Justices of the Peace were declared to be the Mayor, Recorder, and the four last Aldermen who had passed the Chair, and jurisdiction was granted to them, not only over the Borough, but over the Bishops-fee, St Mary's (such part rather as lies out of the Borough) St. Leonard's,

and the Newark. Several of their privileges of more or less import (such as a power to make bye laws and impose fines, a grant of a wool market, &c.) were given to the Corporation by this charter, and the charters of the preceding Monarchs were in all respects confirmed.

In the time of James II. this Corporation shared the fate of most others, by being compelled to deliver up their charter to that arbitrary Sovereign ; but they, as is well known, were afterwards reinstated, as were all other Corporations.

#### LIST OF MAYORS, &c.

- 1274 ... .. John Alsay.
- 1274 ..... William Leef.
- 1279-80 ..... William English.
- 1281-84 ..... Thomas Gamfrey.
- 1285-86 ..... Godfrey Manclarke.
- 1287-88 ..... Thomas Gamfrey.
- 1289 ..... John Alsay.
- 1290 ..... Thomas Gamfrey.
- 1291 ..... Laurence Miller.
- 1292 ..... Thomas Gamfrey.
- 1293 ..... William English.
- 1294 ..... Thomas Gamfrey.
- 1295 ..... Ralph Imick.
- 1296-99 ..... Peter Humfrey.
- 1300 . ..... Thomas Gamfrey.
- 1301 .... .. William English.—In this year there was a grant for erecting a prison in the Town of Leicester, to prevent the inconvenience of sending their prisoners to the gaol at Warwick.
- 1302-3 ..... William Palmer.
- 1304 ..... Robert Willoby.
- 1305 ..... Roger Willoby.—On the 8th of November in this year, King Edward I. granted to Thomas, Earl of Lancaster, and his heirs,

which is that of Sir Thomas White, knight, citizen and merchant tailor, of London, who, among many magnificent charities, bequeathed £10,000 in the trust of the Corporation, to be lent without interest in sums of £50 and £40 to every freeman of Leicester, for the term of nine years ; a charity of peculiar value, as it affords a perpetual incitement to the exertions of rising industry.

The Magistracy of Leicester is an institution of great antiquity and respectability, being a corporation by prescription, dating its establishment from immemorial usage before its first charter in the reign of King John.

By forming cities and towns into corporations, and conferring on them the privileges of municipal jurisdiction, the first check was given to the overwhelming evils of the feudal system ; and under their influence freedom and independence began to peep forth from amid the rigours of slavery and the miseries of oppression.

To be free of any corporation was not then, as at present, merely to enjoy some privileges in trade, or to exercise the right of voting on particular occasions, but it was to be exempt from the hardships of feudal service ; to have the right of disposing both of person and property, and to be governed by laws intended to promote the general good, and not to gratify the ambition and avarice of individuals. These laws, however rude and imperfect, tended to

afford security to property, and encourage men to habits of industry. Thus commerce, with every ornamental and useful art, began first in corporate bodies, to animate society. But in those dark ages, force was necessary to defend the claims of industry ; and such a force these municipal societies possessed ; for their towns were not only defended by walls and gates vigilantly guarded by the citizens, but oft-times at the head of their fellow freemen in arms, the mayor, aldermen, or other officers marched forth in firm array to assert their rights, defend their property, and teach the proudest and most powerful baron that the humblest freeman was not to be injured with impunity. It was thus the commons learned and proved they were not objects of contempt ; nay that they were beings of the same species as the greatest lords.

It is pleasingly curious to observe in these times the shadow of the semblance of this most useful military power preserved as at Leicester, in the array of a few of the poor men of Trinity Hospital, clad in pieces of iron armour, attending the beadle while he proclaims a fair ; nor is it less so to recollect that the feasts annually given by the Mayor were once held in imitation of the rude hospitality of the Barons, whose feasts not a little contributed to give a consequence to the commons of England, and to humanize the haughty chief by shewing him that respectability might belong to those who did not

★

which is that of Sir Thomas White, knight, citizen and merchant tailor, of London, who, among many magnificent charities, bequeathed £10,000 in the trust of the Corporation, to be lent without interest in sums of £50 and £40 to every freeman of Leicester, for the term of nine years; a charity of peculiar value, as it affords a perpetual incitement to the exertions of rising industry.

The Magistracy of Leicester is an institution of great antiquity and respectability, being a corporation by prescription, dating its establishment from immemorial usage before its first charter in the reign of King John.

By forming cities and towns into corporations, and conferring on them the privileges of municipal jurisdiction, the first check was given to the overwhelming evils of the feudal system; and under their influence freedom and independence began to peep forth from amid the rigours of slavery and the miseries of oppression.

To be free of any corporation was not then, as at present, merely to enjoy some privileges in trade, or to exercise the right of voting on particular occasions, but it was to be exempt from the hardships of feudal service; to have the right of disposing both of person and property, and to be governed by laws intended to promote the general good, and not to gratify the ambition and avarice of individuals. These laws, however rude and imperfect, tended to

afford security to property, and encourage men to habits of industry. Thus commerce, with every ornamental and useful art, began first in corporate bodies, to animate society. But in those dark ages, force was necessary to defend the claims of industry ; and such a force these municipal societies possessed ; for their towns were not only defended by walls and gates vigilantly guarded by the citizens, but oft-times at the head of their fellow freemen in arms, the mayor, aldermen, or other officers marched forth in firm array to assert their rights, defend their property, and teach the proudest and most powerful baron that the humblest freeman was not to be injured with impunity. It was thus the commons learned and proved they were not objects of contempt ; nay that they were beings of the same species as the greatest lords.

It is pleasingly curious to observe in these times the shadow of the semblance of this most useful military power preserved as at Leicester, in the array of a few of the poor men of Trinity Hospital, clad in pieces of iron armour, attending the beadle while he proclaims a fair ; nor is it less so to recollect that the feasts annually given by the Mayor were once held in imitation of the rude hospitality of the Barons, whose feasts not a little contributed to give a consequence to the commons of England, and to humanize the haughty chief by shewing him that respectability might belong to those who did not

wield the sword, and that men might have dignity, even though they had no pretensions to the glare of titles and the illusions of birth. Thus will the intelligent observer find, that corporate bodies were the true sources of law, liberty and civilization, and by rendering the occupation of trade respectable, they may be deemed the first origin of that commerce which has rendered Great Britain the most powerful and most happy nation of the earth.

These few reflections we will suppose to have occupied the time during the short walk from St. Martin's Church to

#### THE MARKET-PLACE.

In this spacious area, which is surrounded by handsome and well-furnished shops, and whose public ornaments are the plain but respectable building called the *Exchange*, built in 1747, where the Town Magistrates transact their weekly business, and a small octagon edifice enclosing a reservoir of pure water, the *Conduit*, erected in 1709.

We must, having completed the circuit of the town, offer a farewell to our visitor.

Here closing our little tour, which has engaged us in an imaginary acquaintance with the intelligent stranger, we beg he will accept a friendly adieu; and a wish, that as he quits the town through which we have conducted him, and which we have endeavoured to represent in a view not unworthy the

attention of a mind that seeks for more than mere passing ideas of amusement, he may not consider that time as prodigally spent which he has passed in his WALK THROUGH LEICESTER.

---

#### HISTORICAL SKETCH OF THE CORPORATION OF LEICESTER.

The Corporation of Leicester is supposed to be one of the most ancient in the kingdom ; the date of its formation is unknown, but it is conjectured that the Body Politic, having existed a considerable time as a Guild of Merchants, was incorporated in the reign of King John ; in the first year of whose reign, a charter appears for rendering valid the sale of lands in the Borough of Leicester ; and in the same year another charter for the free passage and trading of the Burgesses of Leicester through the whole kingdom, without paying any manner of toll, stallage, &c. Upon this latter charter all Freemen of Leicester ground their present right of passing toll-free at fairs and markets.

A variety of charters were granted by succeeding Monarchs, establishing in different ways the rights and privileges of the Corporation and Burgesses of Leicester, between the time of King John and the



41st year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth. In that year it would seem, that the Corporation feeling that their system required to be new modelled, and their privileges established on a firm basis, solicited of the Crown the great charter by which their whole affairs are at the present time governed, and under which they claim most of the privileges and immunities they now possess.

By this charter the Body Politic was in the first place incorporated by the name it now bears of "The Mayor, Bailiffs, and Burgesses of the Borough of Leicester," and a right given them to hold lands and tenements in mortmain, and to part with, and dispose of the same at their pleasure, and also to prosecute or defend any action in any court or place in the land. Their constitution was then declared to be one Mayor, two Bailiffs, twenty-four Aldermen, and forty-eight Common Council men, and the rules now in force for the election of their officers were established—the several offices of Recorder, Steward, Town Clerk, and of the five Sergeants at Mace were then supplied, and rules ordained for their respective elections. The Justices of the Peace were declared to be the Mayor, Recorder, and the four last Aldermen who had passed the Chair, and jurisdiction was granted to them, not only over the Borough, but over the Bishops-fee, St Mary's (such part rather as lies out of the Borough) St. Leonard's,

and the Newark. Several of their privileges of more or less import (such as a power to make bye laws and impose fines, a grant of a wool market, &c.) were given to the Corporation by this charter, and the charters of the preceding Monarchs were in all respects confirmed.

In the time of James II. this Corporation shared the fate of most others, by being compelled to deliver up their charter to that arbitrary Sovereign; but they, as is well known, were afterwards reinstated, as were all other Corporations.

#### LIST OF MAYORS, &c.

- 1274 ... John Alsay.
- 1274 ..... William Leef.
- 1279-80 ..... William English.
- 1281-84 ..... Thomas Gamfrey.
- 1285-86 ..... Godfrey Manclarke.
- 1287-88 ..... Thomas Gamfrey.
- 1289 ..... John Alsay.
- 1290 ..... Thomas Gamfrey.
- 1291 ..... Laurence Miller.
- 1292 ..... Thomas Gamfrey.
- 1293 ..... William English.
- 1294 ..... Thomas Gamfrey.
- 1295 ..... Ralph Imick.
- 1296-99 ..... Peter Humfrey.
- 1300 ..... Thomas Gamfrey.
- 1301 .... William English.—In this year there was a grant for erecting a prison in the Town of Leicester, to prevent the inconvenience of sending their prisoners to the gaol at Warwick.
- 1302-3 ..... William Palmer.
- 1304 ..... Robert Willoby.
- 1305 ..... Roger Willoby.—On the 8th of November in this year, King Edward I. granted to Thomas, Earl of Lancaster, and his heirs,

which is that of Sir Thomas White, knight, citizen and merchant tailor, of London, who, among many magnificent charities, bequeathed £10,000 in the trust of the Corporation, to be lent without interest in sums of £50 and £40 to every freeman of Leicester, for the term of nine years; a charity of peculiar value, as it affords a perpetual incitement to the exertions of rising industry.

The Magistracy of Leicester is an institution of great antiquity and respectability, being a corporation by prescription, dating its establishment from immemorial usage before its first charter in the reign of King John.

By forming cities and towns into corporations, and conferring on them the privileges of municipal jurisdiction, the first check was given to the overwhelming evils of the feudal system; and under their influence freedom and independence began to peep forth from amid the rigours of slavery and the miseries of oppression.

To be free of any corporation was not then, as at present, merely to enjoy some privileges in trade, or to exercise the right of voting on particular occasions, but it was to be exempt from the hardships of feudal service; to have the right of disposing both of person and property, and to be governed by laws intended to promote the general good, and not to gratify the ambition and avarice of individuals. These laws, however rude and imperfect, tended to

afford security to property, and encourage men to habits of industry. Thus commerce, with every ornamental and useful art, began first in corporate bodies, to animate society. But in those dark ages, force was necessary to defend the claims of industry ; and such a force these municipal societies possessed ; for their towns were not only defended by walls and gates vigilantly guarded by the citizens, but oft-times at the head of their fellow freemen in arms, the mayor, aldermen, or other officers marched forth in firm array to assert their rights, defend their property, and teach the proudest and most powerful baron that the humblest freeman was not to be injured with impunity. It was thus the commons learned and proved they were not objects of contempt ; nay that they were beings of the same species as the greatest lords.

It is pleasingly curious to observe in these times the shadow of the semblance of this most useful military power preserved as at Leicester, in the array of a few of the poor men of Trinity Hospital, clad in pieces of iron armour, attending the beadle while he proclaims a fair ; nor is it less so to recollect that the feasts annually given by the Mayor were once held in imitation of the rude hospitality of the Barons, whose feasts not a little contributed to give consequence to the commons of England, and to humanize the haughty chief by shewing him that respectability might belong to those who did not

wield the sword, and that men might have dignity, even though they had no pretensions to the glare of titles and the illusions of birth. Thus will the intelligent observer find, that corporate bodies were the true sources of law, liberty and civilization, and by rendering the occupation of trade respectable, they may be deemed the first origin of that commerce which has rendered Great Britain the most powerful and most happy nation of the earth.

These few reflections we will suppose to have occupied the time during the short walk from St. Martin's Church to

#### THE MARKET-PLACE.

In this spacious area, which is surrounded by handsome and well-furnished shops, and whose public ornaments are the plain but respectable building called the *Exchange*, built in 1747, where the Town Magistrates transact their weekly business, and a small octagon edifice enclosing a reservoir of pure water, the *Conduit*, erected in 1709.

We must, having completed the circuit of the town, offer a farewell to our visitor.

Here closing our little tour, which has engaged us in an imaginary acquaintance with the intelligent stranger, we beg he will accept a friendly adieu ; and a wish, that as he quits the town through which we have conducted him, and which we have endeavoured to represent in a view not unworthy the

attention of a mind that seeks for more than mere passing ideas of amusement, he may not consider that time as prodigally spent which he has passed in his WALK THROUGH LEICESTER.

---

#### HISTORICAL SKETCH OF THE CORPORATION OF LEICESTER.

The Corporation of Leicester is supposed to be one of the most ancient in the kingdom ; the date of its formation is unknown, but it is conjectured that the Body Politic, having existed a considerable time as a Guild of Merchants, was incorporated in the reign of King John ; in the first year of whose reign, a charter appears for rendering valid the sale of lands in the Borough of Leicester ; and in the same year another charter for the free passage and trading of the Burgesses of Leicester through the whole kingdom, without paying any manner of toll, stallage, &c. Upon this latter charter all Freemen of Leicester ground their present right of passing toll-free at fairs and markets.

A variety of charters were granted by succeeding Monarchs, establishing in different ways the rights and privileges of the Corporation and Burgesses of Leicester, between the time of King John and the

41st year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth. In that year it would seem, that the Corporation feeling that their system required to be new modelled, and their privileges established on a firm basis, solicited of the Crown the great charter by which their whole affairs are at the present time governed, and under which they claim most of the privileges and immunities they now possess.

By this charter the Body Politic was in the first place incorporated by the name it now bears of "The Mayor, Bailiffs, and Burgesses of the Borough of Leicester," and a right given them to hold lands and tenements in mortmain, and to part with, and dispose of the same at their pleasure, and also to prosecute or defend any action in any court or place in the land. Their constitution was then declared to be one Mayor, two Bailiffs, twenty-four Aldermen, and forty-eight Common Council men, and the rules now in force for the election of their officers were established—the several offices of Recorder, Steward, Town Clerk, and of the five Sergeants at Mace were then supplied, and rules ordained for their respective elections. The Justices of the Peace were declared to be the Mayor, Recorder, and the four last Aldermen who had passed the Chair, and jurisdiction was granted to them, not only over the Borough, but over the Bishops-fee, St Mary's (such part rather as lies out of the Borough) St. Leonard's,

and the Newark. Several of their privileges of more or less import (such as a power to make bye laws and impose fines, a grant of a wool market, &c.) were given to the Corporation by this charter, and the charters of the preceding Monarchs were in all respects confirmed.

In the time of James II. this Corporation shared the fate of most others, by being compelled to deliver up their charter to that arbitrary Sovereign ; but they, as is well known, were afterwards reinstated, as were all other Corporations.

## LIST OF MAYORS, &amp;c.

- 1274 ... .. John Alsay.
- 1274 ..... William Leef.
- 1279-80 ..... William English.
- 1281-84 ..... Thomas Gamfrey.
- 1285-86 ..... Godfrey Manclarke.
- 1287-88 ..... Thomas Gamfrey.
- 1289 ..... John Alsay.
- 1290 ..... Thomas Gamfrey.
- 1291 ..... Laurence Miller.
- 1292 ..... Thomas Gamfrey.
- 1293 ..... William English.
- 1294 ..... Thomas Gamfrey.
- 1295 ..... Ralph Imick.
- 1296-99 ..... Peter Humfrey.
- 1300 . ..... Thomas Gamfrey.
- 1301 .... .. William English.—In this year there was a grant for erecting a prison in the Town of Leicester, to prevent the inconvenience of sending their prisoners to the gaol at Warwick.
- 1302-3 ..... William Palmer.
- 1304 ..... Robert Willoby.
- 1305 ..... Roger Willoby.—On the 8th of November in this year, King Edward I. granted to Thomas, Earl of Lancaster, and his heirs,



which is that of Sir Thomas White, knight, citizen and merchant tailor, of London, who, among many magnificent charities, bequeathed £10,000 in the trust of the Corporation, to be lent without interest in sums of £50 and £40 to every freeman of Leicester, for the term of nine years; a charity of peculiar value, as it affords a perpetual incitement to the exertions of rising industry.

The Magistracy of Leicester is an institution of great antiquity and respectability, being a corporation by prescription, dating its establishment from immemorial usage before its first charter in the reign of King John.

By forming cities and towns into corporations, and conferring on them the privileges of municipal jurisdiction, the first check was given to the overwhelming evils of the feudal system; and under their influence freedom and independence began to peep forth from amid the rigours of slavery and the miseries of oppression.

To be free of any corporation was not then, as at present, merely to enjoy some privileges in trade, or to exercise the right of voting on particular occasions, but it was to be exempt from the hardships of feudal service; to have the right of disposing both of person and property, and to be governed by laws intended to promote the general good, and not to gratify the ambition and avarice of individuals. These laws, however rude and imperfect, tended to

afford security to property, and encourage men to habits of industry. Thus commerce, with every ornamental and useful art, began first in corporate bodies, to animate society. But in those dark ages, force was necessary to defend the claims of industry ; and such a force these municipal societies possessed ; for their towns were not only defended by walls and gates vigilantly guarded by the citizens, but oft-times at the head of their fellow freemen in arms, the mayor, aldermen, or other officers marched forth in firm array to assert their rights, defend their property, and teach the proudest and most powerful baron that the humblest freeman was not to be injured with impunity. It was thus the commons learned and proved they were not objects of contempt ; nay that they were beings of the same species as the greatest lords.

It is pleasingly curious to observe in these times the shadow of the semblance of this most useful military power preserved as at Leicester, in the array of a few of the poor men of Trinity Hospital, clad in pieces of iron armour, attending the beadle while he proclaims a fair ; nor is it less so to recollect that the feasts annually given by the Mayor were once held in imitation of the rude hospitality of the Barons, whose feasts not a little contributed to give consequence to the commons of England, and to humanize the haughty chief by shewing him that respectability might belong to those who did not

wield the sword, and that men might have dignity, even though they had no pretensions to the glare of titles and the illusions of birth. Thus will the intelligent observer find, that corporate bodies were the true sources of law, liberty and civilization, and by rendering the occupation of trade respectable, they may be deemed the first origin of that commerce which has rendered Great Britain the most powerful and most happy nation of the earth.

These few reflections we will suppose to have occupied the time during the short walk from St. Martin's Church to

#### THE MARKET-PLACE.

In this spacious area, which is surrounded by handsome and well-furnished shops, and whose public ornaments are the plain but respectable building called the *Exchange*, built in 1747, where the Town Magistrates transact their weekly business, and a small octagon edifice enclosing a reservoir of pure water, the *Conduit*, erected in 1709.

We must, having completed the circuit of the town, offer a farewell to our visitor.

Here closing our little tour, which has engaged us in an imaginary acquaintance with the intelligent stranger, we beg he will accept a friendly adieu; and a wish, that as he quits the town through which we have conducted him, and which we have endeavoured to represent in a view not unworthy the

attention of a mind that seeks for more than mere passing ideas of amusement, he may not consider that time as prodigally spent which he has passed in his WALK THROUGH LEICESTER.

---

#### HISTORICAL SKETCH OF THE CORPORATION OF LEICESTER.

The Corporation of Leicester is supposed to be one of the most ancient in the kingdom ; the date of its formation is unknown, but it is conjectured that the Body Politic, having existed a considerable time as a Guild of Merchants, was incorporated in the reign of King John ; in the first year of whose reign, a charter appears for rendering valid the sale of lands in the Borough of Leicester ; and in the same year another charter for the free passage and trading of the Burgesses of Leicester through the whole kingdom, without paying any manner of toll, stallage, &c. Upon this latter charter all Freemen of Leicester ground their present right of passing toll-free at fairs and markets.

A variety of charters were granted by succeeding Monarchs, establishing in different ways the rights and privileges of the Corporation and Burgesses of Leicester, between the time of King John and the

41st year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth. In that year it would seem, that the Corporation feeling that their system required to be new modelled, and their privileges established on a firm basis, solicited of the Crown the great charter by which their whole affairs are at the present time governed, and under which they claim most of the privileges and immunities they now possess.

By this charter the Body Politic was in the first place incorporated by the name it now bears of "The Mayor, Bailiffs, and Burgesses of the Borough of Leicester," and a right given them to hold lands and tenements in mortmain, and to part with, and dispose of the same at their pleasure, and also to prosecute or defend any action in any court or place in the land. Their constitution was then declared to be one Mayor, two Bailiffs, twenty-four Aldermen, and forty-eight Common Council men, and the rules now in force for the election of their officers were established—the several offices of Recorder, Steward, Town Clerk, and of the five Sergeants at Mace were then supplied, and rules ordained for their respective elections. The Justices of the Peace were declared to be the Mayor, Recorder, and the four last Aldermen who had passed the Chair, and jurisdiction was granted to them, not only over the Borough, but over the Bishops-fee, St Mary's (such part rather as lies out of the Borough) St. Leonard's,

and the Newark. Several of their privileges of more or less import (such as a power to make bye laws and impose fines, a grant of a wool market, &c.) were given to the Corporation by this charter, and the charters of the preceding Monarchs were in all respects confirmed.

In the time of James II. this Corporation shared the fate of most others, by being compelled to deliver up their charter to that arbitrary Sovereign; but they, as is well known, were afterwards reinstated, as were all other Corporations.

#### LIST OF MAYORS, &c.

- 1274 ... .. John Alsay.
- 1274 ..... William Leef.
- 1279-80 ..... William English.
- 1281-84 ..... Thomas Gamfrey.
- 1285-86 ..... Godfrey Manclarke.
- 1287-88 ..... Thomas Gamfrey.
- 1289 ..... John Alsay.
- 1290 ..... Thomas Gamfrey.
- 1291 ..... Laurence Miller.
- 1292 ..... Thomas Gamfrey.
- 1293 ..... William English.
- 1294 ..... Thomas Gamfrey.
- 1295 ..... Ralph Imick.
- 1296-99 ..... Peter Humfrey.
- 1300 . .... Thomas Gamfrey.
- 1301 .... . William English.—In this year there was a grant for erecting a prison in the Town of Leicester, to prevent the inconvenience of sending their prisoners to the gaol at Warwick.
- 1302-3 ..... William Palmer.
- 1304 ..... Robert Willoby.
- 1305 ..... Roger Willoby.—On the 8th of November in this year, King Edward I. granted to Thomas, Earl of Lancaster, and his heirs,

which is that of Sir Thomas White, knight, citizen and merchant tailor, of London, who, among many magnificent charities, bequeathed £10,000 in trust of the Corporation, to be lent without interest in sums of £50 and £40 to every freeman of Leicester, for the term of nine years; a charity of peculiar value, as it affords a perpetual incitement to the exertions of rising industry.

The Magistracy of Leicester is an institution of great antiquity and respectability, being a corporation by prescription, dating its establishment from immemorial usage before its first charter in the reign of King John.

By forming cities and towns into corporations, and conferring on them the privileges of self-government and jurisdiction, the first check was given to the overwhelming evils of the feudal system, and their influence freedom and independence began to peep forth from amid the rigours of servitude and miseries of oppression.

To be free of any corporation was, at the present, merely to enjoy some privileges, and to exercise the right of voting on parliamentary elections, but it was to be exempt from the duties of feudal service; to have the right of disposing of person and property, and to be governed by laws intended to promote the general good, and not to gratify the ambition and avarice of individuals. These laws, however rude and imperfect,

Clerk, and Mr. John Heyrick, (now living, and in his 88th year), was elected in his stead.

- 1765 ..... Joseph Chambers.
- 1766 ..... John Fisher.
- 1767 ..... William Holmes.—In this year was the contest in which the Hon. Booth Grey and Colonel Coote were elected Members of Parliament, in opposition to Mr. Darker and Mr. Palmer.
- 1768 ..... John Westley.
- 1769 ..... Joseph Chambers.
- 1770 ..... James Cooper.
- 1771 ... .. John Cartwright.
- 1772 ..... Robert Peach.
- 1773 ..... Richard Roberts Drake.
- 1774 ... .. Samuel Oliver.
- 1775 ..... Joseph Johnson.
- 1776 ..... Samuel Jordan.
- 1777 ..... John Coleman.
- 1778 ..... John Pocklington.
- 1779 ..... John Gregory.
- 1780 ..... Henry Watchorn.
- 1781 ..... Thomas Barwell.
- 1782 ..... James Bishop.
- 1783 ..... William Oldham.
- 1784 ..... Joseph Chambers, (3d time).—Mail Coaches first came to Leicester July 26th 1785.
- 1785 ..... John Parsons.—This gentleman died during his Mayoralty, and Robert Peach succeeded him.
- 1786 ..... Hamlett Clarke.
- 1787 .... .. Robert Dickinson.
- 1788 ..... Henry Watchorn.
- 1789 ..... John Dalby.—In this year was the celebrated contest between Mr. Smith and Mr. Halhed on the high party side, and Mr. Parkyns and Mr. Montolieu on the low, which ended in the retiring of Mr. Halhed and Mr. Montolieu.
- 1790 ..... John Eames.—Feb. 10, 1791, Mr. J. Heyrick resigned the office of Town Clerk, and Mr. William Heyrick was elected in his stead.
- 1791 .... .. Joseph Neal.
- 1792 ..... Joseph Burbidge.
- 1793 ..... John Mansfield.
- 1794 ..... Benjamin Gregory.



which is that of Sir Thomas White, knight, citizen and merchant tailor, of London, who, among many magnificent charities, bequeathed £10,000 in the trust of the Corporation, to be lent without interest in sums of £50 and £40 to every freeman of Leicester, for the term of nine years; a charity of peculiar value, as it affords a perpetual incitement to the exertions of rising industry.

The Magistracy of Leicester is an institution of great antiquity and respectability, being a corporation by prescription, dating its establishment from immemorial usage before its first charter in the reign of King John.

By forming cities and towns into corporations, and conferring on them the privileges of municipal jurisdiction, the first check was given to the overwhelming evils of the feudal system; and under their influence freedom and independence began to peep forth from amid the rigours of slavery and the miseries of oppression.

To be free of any corporation was not then, as at present, merely to enjoy some privileges in trade, or to exercise the right of voting on particular occasions, but it was to be exempt from the hardships of feudal service; to have the right of disposing both of person and property, and to be governed by laws intended to promote the general good, and not to gratify the ambition and avarice of individuals. These laws, however rude and imperfect, tended to

land at Belvoir Castle, and the Mayor (now Sir William Walker) received the honor of Knighthood.

1814 ..... Michael Miles.

1815 ..... John Mansfield.

1816 ..... Thomas Miller.

1817 ..... John Gregory.—In June, 1818, was a Dissolution of Parliament, when Mr. Smith and Mr. Babington unexpectedly retired, and were succeeded by Mr. Mansfield and Mr. T. Pares, Jun.

1818 ..... James Bankart.

1819 ..... Robert Johnson.—In March, 1820, the Parliament was Dissolved, in consequence of the death of our late revered Sovereign, and Mr. Mansfield and Mr. Pares were elected without opposition.

1820 ..... Isaac Lovell.

#### MANUFACTORY OF THE TOWN.

The manufactory of Stockings in this town and county is the largest in the world: besides wove worsted hose, which are the staple article of the place, a great variety of cotton hose are now made, which, from their cheapness, obtain a sale in this and most other Countries.

The machine by which these hose are made, was first invented in the year 1590, by the Rev. W. Lee, of Calverton, in Nottinghamshire, who exhibited it before Queen Elizabeth; but not meeting with that encouragement he so justly deserved, immediately left the Country, and carried it to France, where he would have established it at Rouen, had it not been for the murder of the French King, which prevented the execution of a grant of privilege and reward in favor of Mr. Lee and his art.

Soon after, Mr. Lee died under great disappointment at Paris, and several of his workmen returning to London, laid the foundation of stocking weaving in this county. The number of workmen employed in this branch is not less than 20,000, who can produce from the raw material about 15,000 dozen per week.

The Population of the Town, according to a Census taken June, 1821, amounted to 30,254.

## THE DISTANCE FROM LEICESTER

	<i>Miles</i>		<i>Miles</i>
To Loughborough .. is ..	11	To Birmingham ... is ...	44
Nottingham, .....	26	Warwick, .....	36
Derby, .....	27	Lutterworth, .....	13
Harborough, .....	15	Rugby, .....	20
Northampton, .....	32	Melton Mowbray, ....	15
Ashby-de-la Zouch, ..	18	Oakham, ... ..	25
Hinckley, .....	13	Uppingham, .....	19
Coventry, .....	26	Stamford, .....	34

## COACHES

To London, Liverpool, Manchester, Birmingham, Cambridge, and the intermediate towns, leave Leicester daily: there are also

## BOATS

For London, Liverpool, Manchester, &c. and

## CARAVANS

For London, Sheffield, Manchester, Leeds, Stamford, &c.

## BANKERS.

Messrs. Mansfield and Babingtons.—Draw on Messrs. Smith, Payne, and Smiths.

Messrs. Pares, Paget, and Heygates.—Draw on Messrs. Pares and Heygate.

Messrs. Clarke and Phillips.—Draw on Sir P. Pole & Co.

Messrs. Miller and Son.—Draw on Messrs. Masterman & Co.

## POST OFFICE.

Letters for London and the South must be in the office before five o'clock in the evening, and those for the North before eight in the morning.

## FAIRS IN LEICESTER,

May 12 and October 10, for cattle and cheese — March 2, July 5, for cattle. — The new fairs are January 4, June 1, August 1, September 13, and November 2.

## FINIS.

attention of a mind that seeks for more than mere passing ideas of amusement, he may not consider that time as prodigally spent which he has passed in his WALK THROUGH LEICESTER.

---

#### HISTORICAL SKETCH OF THE CORPORATION OF LEICESTER.

The Corporation of Leicester is supposed to be one of the most ancient in the kingdom ; the date of its formation is unknown, but it is conjectured that the Body Politic, having existed a considerable time as a Guild of Merchants, was incorporated in the reign of King John ; in the first year of whose reign, a charter appears for rendering valid the sale of lands in the Borough of Leicester ; and in the same year another charter for the free passage and trading of the Burgesses of Leicester through the whole kingdom, without paying any manner of toll, stallage, &c. Upon this latter charter all Freemen of Leicester ground their present right of passing toll-free at fairs and markets.

A variety of charters were granted by succeeding Monarchs, establishing in different ways the rights and privileges of the Corporation and Burgesses of Leicester, between the time of King John and the

41st year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth. In that year it would seem, that the Corporation feeling that their system required to be new modelled, and their privileges established on a firm basis, solicited of the Crown the great charter by which their whole affairs are at the present time governed, and under which they claim most of the privileges and immunities they now possess.

By this charter the Body Politic was in the first place incorporated by the name it now bears of "The Mayor, Bailiffs, and Burgesses of the Borough of Leicester," and a right given them to hold lands and tenements in mortmain, and to part with, and dispose of the same at their pleasure, and also to prosecute or defend any action in any court or place in the land. Their constitution was then declared to be one Mayor, two Bailiffs, twenty-four Aldermen, and forty-eight Common Council men, and the rules now in force for the election of their officers were established—the several offices of Recorder, Steward, Town Clerk, and of the five Sergeants at Mace were then supplied, and rules ordained for their respective elections. The Justices of the Peace were declared to be the Mayor, Recorder, and the four last Aldermen who had passed the Chair, and jurisdiction was granted to them, not only over the Borough, but over the Bishops-fee, St Mary's (such part rather as lies out of the Borough) St. Leonard's,

and the Newark. Several of their privileges of more or less import (such as a power to make bye laws and impose fines, a grant of a wool market, &c.) were given to the Corporation by this charter, and the charters of the preceding Monarchs were in all respects confirmed.

In the time of James II. this Corporation shared the fate of most others, by being compelled to deliver up their charter to that arbitrary Sovereign ; but they, as is well known, were afterwards reinstated, as were all other Corporations.

#### LIST OF MAYORS, &c.

- 1274 ... .. John Alsay.  
 1274 ..... William Leef.  
 1279-80 ..... William English.  
 1281-84 ..... Thomas Gamfrey.  
 1285-86 ..... Godfrey Manclarke.  
 1287-88 ..... Thomas Gamfrey.  
 1289 ..... John Alsay.  
 1290 ..... Thomas Gamfrey.  
 1291 ..... Laurence Miller.  
 1292 ..... Thomas Gamfrey.  
 1293 ..... William English.  
 1294 ..... Thomas Gamfrey.  
 1295 ..... Ralph Imick.  
 1296-99 ..... Peter Humfrey.  
 1300 . ..... Thomas Gamfrey.  
 1301 .... .. William English.—In this year there was a grant for erecting a prison in the Town of Leicester, to prevent the inconvenience of sending their prisoners to the gaol at Warwick.  
 1302-3 ..... William Palmer.  
 1304 ..... Robert Willoby.  
 1305 ..... Roger Willoby.—On the 8th of November in this year, King Edward I. granted to Thomas, Earl of Lancaster, and his heirs,

a yearly fair to be held on the morrow of the Holy Trinity, and 14 days after, at his Manor of Leicester.

- 1306 ..... Laurence Coedge.  
 1307 ... ..... John Celar.  
 1308 ..... John Coedge.  
 1309-12 ..... John Alsay.  
 1313 ..... Walter Burley.  
 1314 ..... John Knight.  
 1315-16 ..... John Alsay.  
 1317 .... .... John Marrow.  
 1318 ..... William Weanhouse.  
 1319-20 ..... Peter Kent.  
 1321 ..... John Marrow.  
 1322 ..... William Lyndridge.  
 1323 ..... John Norton.  
 1324 ..... John Alsay.  
 1325 ..... Robert Strayton.  
 1326 ..... Robert Strayton.  
 1327 ..... John Norton.  
 1328 ..... John Alsay.  
 1329-30 ..... Henry Merlin.  
 1331-32 ..... John Marrow.—In 1332 the Trinity Hospital, in the Newarke, was founded by Henry, Earl of Lancaster.—Sir William Herrick, of Beaumanor, gave £10 yearly for a sermon to be preached there on Monday in Whitsun Week yearly. A few years afterwards a College was built by Henry, Duke of Lancaster, the son of the above Henry, and for distinction called "The New-work." The Hospital was incorporated by King James I. under its present name of the Hospital of the Holy Trinity.  
 1333 ..... John Martin.  
 1334 ..... John Leverych.  
 1335 ..... John Alsay.  
 1336 ..... William Warren.  
 1337 ..... William Clanney.  
 1338 ..... John Martin.  
 1339-41 ..... Jeffery Kent.—In 1340 there was a strange sickness common in England, which reigned especially in Leicestershire: the paroxysms were attended with intolerable pain, and caused the patients to make a noise like the barking of dogs.  
 1342 ..... Richard Leverych.

- 1343 .... John Martin.  
1344 ..... Richard Leverych.  
1345 ..... John Waynhouse.  
1346-48 ..... John Hayward.  
1349 ..... Jeffery Kent.  
1350-51 ..... William Goldsmith.  
1352 ..... Roger Knightcote.  
1353 ..... Jeffery Kent.  
1354 ..... John Paitling.  
1355 ..... William Dunstable.  
1356 ..... Roger Knightcote.  
1357-58 ..... William Dunstable.  
1359-60 ..... John Cook.  
1361 ..... William Goldsmith.  
1362 ..... William Tubbe.  
1363 ..... Roger Belgrave.  
1364 ..... John Martin.  
1365 ..... William Siston.  
1366 ..... John Stafford.  
1367 ..... Thomas Bebee.  
1368-69 ..... John Coke.  
1370 ..... John Stafford.  
1371 ..... William Greene.  
1372 ..... Henry Clipson.  
1373 ..... Henry Petling.  
1374-75 ..... William Ferror.  
1376 ..... William Taylor.  
1377-78 ..... William Ferror.  
1379 ..... Richard Clipson.  
1380 ..... Richard Gamelston.  
1381 ..... John Stafford.  
1382 ..... Richard Knightcote.  
1383 ..... Richard Gamelston.  
1384 ..... Henry Ferror.  
1385-86 ..... Henry Bebee.  
1387-88 ..... Richard Braunstone.  
1389 ..... Henry Clipson.  
1390 ..... William Humberstone.  
1391 ..... Jeffery Okeham, alias Clark.  
1392 ..... Richard Braunston.  
1393 ..... Richard Humberstone.  
1394 ..... Thomas Wakefield.  
1395 ..... Henry Bebee.  
1396 ..... Thomas Bayley.  
1397 ..... John Houghton.  
1398 ..... Ralph Fisher.  
1399 ..... Roger Humberstone.



which is that of Sir Thomas White, knight, citizen and merchant tailor, of London, who, among many magnificent charities, bequeathed £10,000 in the trust of the Corporation, to be lent without interest in sums of £50 and £40 to every freeman of Leicester, for the term of nine years; a charity of peculiar value, as it affords a perpetual incitement to the exertions of rising industry.

The Magistracy of Leicester is an institution of great antiquity and respectability, being a corporation by prescription, dating its establishment from immemorial usage before its first charter in the reign of King John.

By forming cities and towns into corporations, and conferring on them the privileges of municipal jurisdiction, the first check was given to the overwhelming evils of the feudal system; and under their influence freedom and independence began to peep forth from amid the rigours of slavery and the miseries of oppression.

To be free of any corporation was not then, as at present, merely to enjoy some privileges in trade, or to exercise the right of voting on particular occasions, but it was to be exempt from the hardships of feudal service; to have the right of disposing both of person and property, and to be governed by laws intended to promote the general good, and not to gratify the ambition and avarice of individuals. These laws, however rude and imperfect, tended to

afford security to property, and encourage men to habits of industry. Thus commerce, with every ornamental and useful art, began first in corporate bodies, to animate society. But in those dark ages, force was necessary to defend the claims of industry ; and such a force these municipal societies possessed ; for their towns were not only defended by walls and gates vigilantly guarded by the citizens, but oft-times at the head of their fellow freemen in arms, the mayor, aldermen, or other officers marched forth in firm array to assert their rights, defend their property, and teach the proudest and most powerful baron that the humblest freeman was not to be injured with impunity. It was thus the commons learned and proved they were not objects of contempt ; nay that they were beings of the same species as the greatest lords.

It is pleasingly curious to observe in these times the shadow of the semblance of this most useful military power preserved as at Leicester, in the array of a few of the poor men of Trinity Hospital, clad in pieces of iron armour, attending the beadle while he proclaims a fair ; nor is it less so to recollect that the feasts annually given by the Mayor were once held in imitation of the rude hospitality of the Barons, whose feasts not a little contributed to give a consequence to the commons of England, and to humanize the haughty chief by shewing him that respectability might belong to those who did not

- 1588 ..... Géorge Norris.—In this year was the memorable defeat of the Spanish Armada—Thos. Skeffington, Esq. of Belgrave, High Sheriff, summoned all persons between 19 and 50, to the number of 12,530, able to bear arms : 2,000 of the *prime* sent to Tilbury, the rest sent home, armed, and directed to rendezvous on the first news of the Spaniards setting foot in England. After the defeat, the Mayor entertained in the most sumptuous manner all the first Nobility and Gentry of the County in his Hall.
- 1594 ..... George Tatam.—This year the plague raged in Leicester.
- 1st James I.... John Stanford chosen Recorder.
- 1645 ..... “ On the last day of May “ the King’s Majesty with his army did enter Leicester and took it by storm, at which time the town was much plundered, and Mr. Mayor’s mace, and divers of the town seals taken away by the unruly soldiers. On the 18th of June the town was regained by the Parliamentary army under Fairfax. The Corporation were Parliamentarians. Edward Palmer, the Town Clerk, was confined for offences committed by him against the Governor of the Garrison and the Committee, (amongst whom were the Mayor, Mr. Billers, and several Aldermen) and by reason of the detriment which the town business sustained by the loss of his services was discharged, and Hugh Aston, gent. was elected.—The whole of the Southgate-Street was demolished in these wars.
- 1653 ..... June 2, Abel Coles, Sen. chosen Town Clerk.
- 1660 ..... Mr. Edward Palmer, Town Clerk.
- 1661 ..... Francis Noble, Mayor.—James Winstanley, Recorder.
- 1664 ..... John Huckle, Town Clerk.
- 1680 ..... John Goodhall, Mayor.—Nathan Wright, (afterwards Lord Keeper), Recorder.
- 1715 ..... John Roby, Town Clerk, died, and Thomas Jordaine chosen in his room.
- 1763 ..... Henry Gutheridge, Mayor.
- 1764 ..... Richard Beale.—At a Court of Aldermen held on the 5th of October in this year, Mr. Thomas Herrick resigned the office of Town

attention of a mind that seeks for more than mere passing ideas of amusement, he may not consider that time as prodigally spent which he has passed in his **WALK THROUGH LEICESTER.**

---

#### **HISTORICAL SKETCH OF THE CORPORATION OF LEICESTER.**

The Corporation of Leicester is supposed to be one of the most ancient in the kingdom ; the date of its formation is unknown, but it is conjectured that the Body Politic, having existed a considerable time as a Guild of Merchants, was incorporated in the reign of King John ; in the first year of whose reign, a charter appears for rendering valid the sale of lands in the Borough of Leicester ; and in the same year another charter for the free passage and trading of the Burgesses of Leicester through the whole kingdom, without paying any manner of toll, stallage, &c. Upon this latter charter all Freemen of Leicester ground their present right of passing toll-free at fairs and markets.

A variety of charters were granted by succeeding Monarchs, establishing in different ways the rights and privileges of the Corporation and Burgesses of Leicester, between the time of King John and the

41st year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth. In that year it would seem, that the Corporation feeling that their system required to be new modelled, and their privileges established on a firm basis, solicited of the Crown the great charter by which their whole affairs are at the present time governed, and under which they claim most of the privileges and immunities they now possess.

By this charter the Body Politic was in the first place incorporated by the name it now bears of "The Mayor, Bailiffs, and Burgesses of the Borough of Leicester," and a right given them to hold lands and tenements in mortmain, and to part with, and dispose of the same at their pleasure, and also to prosecute or defend any action in any court or place in the land. Their constitution was then declared to be one Mayor, two Bailiffs, twenty-four Aldermen, and forty-eight Common Council men, and the rules now in force for the election of their officers were established—the several offices of Recorder, Steward, Town Clerk, and of the five Sergeants at Mace were then supplied, and rules ordained for their respective elections. The Justices of the Peace were declared to be the Mayor, Recorder, and the four last Aldermen who had passed the Chair, and jurisdiction was granted to them, not only over the Borough, but over the Bishops-fee, St Mary's (such part rather as lies out of the Borough) St. Leonard's,

and the Newark. Several of their privileges of more or less import (such as a power to make bye laws and impose fines, a grant of a wool market, &c.) were given to the Corporation by this charter, and the charters of the preceding Monarchs were in all respects confirmed.

In the time of James II. this Corporation shared the fate of most others, by being compelled to deliver up their charter to that arbitrary Sovereign; but they, as is well known, were afterwards reinstated, as were all other Corporations.

#### LIST OF MAYORS, &c.

- 1274 ... John Alsay.  
 1274 ..... William Leef.  
 1279-80 ..... William English.  
 1281-84 ..... Thomas Gamfrey.  
 1285-86 ..... Godfrey Manclarke.  
 1287-88 ..... Thomas Gamfrey.  
 1289 ..... John Alsay.  
 1290 ..... Thomas Gamfrey.  
 1291 ..... Laurence Miller.  
 1292 ..... Thomas Gamfrey.  
 1293 ..... William English.  
 1294 ..... Thomas Gamfrey.  
 1295 ..... Ralph Imick.  
 1296-99 ..... Peter Humfrey.  
 1300 ..... Thomas Gamfrey.  
 1301 .... William English.—In this year there was a grant for erecting a prison in the Town of Leicester, to prevent the inconvenience of sending their prisoners to the gaol at Warwick.  
 1302-3 ..... William Palmer.  
 1304 ..... Robert Willoby.  
 1305 ..... Roger Willoby.—On the 8th of November in this year, King Edward I. granted to Thomas, Earl of Lancaster, and his heirs,

## THE DISTANCE FROM LEICESTER

	<i>Miles</i>		<i>Miles</i>
To Loughborough .. is ..	11	To Birmingham ... is ...	44
Nottingham, .....	26	Warwick, .....	36
Derby, .....	27	Lutterworth, .....	13
Harborough, .....	15	Rugby, .....	20
Northampton, .....	32	Melton Mowbray, ...	15
Ashby-de-la Zouch, ..	18	Oakham, ...	25
Hinckley, .....	13	Uppingham, .....	19
Coventry, .....	26	Stamford, .....	34

## COACHES

To London, Liverpool, Manchester, Birmingham, Cambridge, and the intermediate towns, leave Leicester daily: there are also

## BOATS

For London, Liverpool, Manchester, &c. and

## CARAVANS

For London, Sheffield, Manchester, Leeds, Stamford, &c.

## BANKERS.

Messrs. Mansfield and Babingtons.—Draw on Messrs. Smith, Payne, and Smiths.

Messrs. Pares, Paget, and Heygates.—Draw on Messrs. Pares and Heygate.

Messrs. Clarke and Phillips.—Draw on Sir P. Pole & Co.

Messrs. Miller and Son.—Draw on Messrs. Masterman & Co.

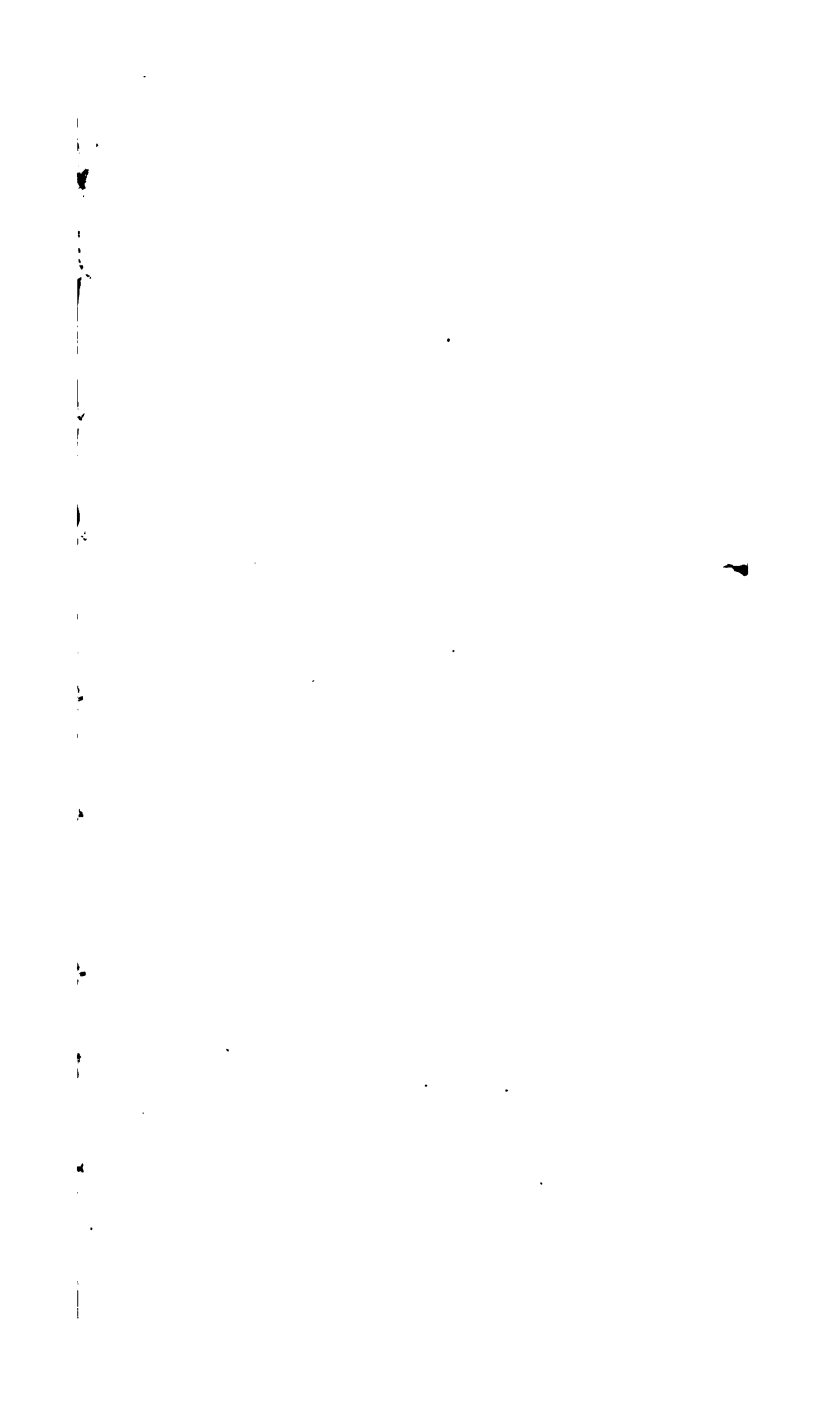
## POST OFFICE.

Letters for London and the South must be in the office before five o'clock in the evening, and those for the North before eight in the morning.

## FAIRS IN LEICESTER,

May 12 and October 10, for cattle and cheese — March 2, July 5, for cattle. — The new fairs are January 4, June 1, August 1, September 13, and November 2.

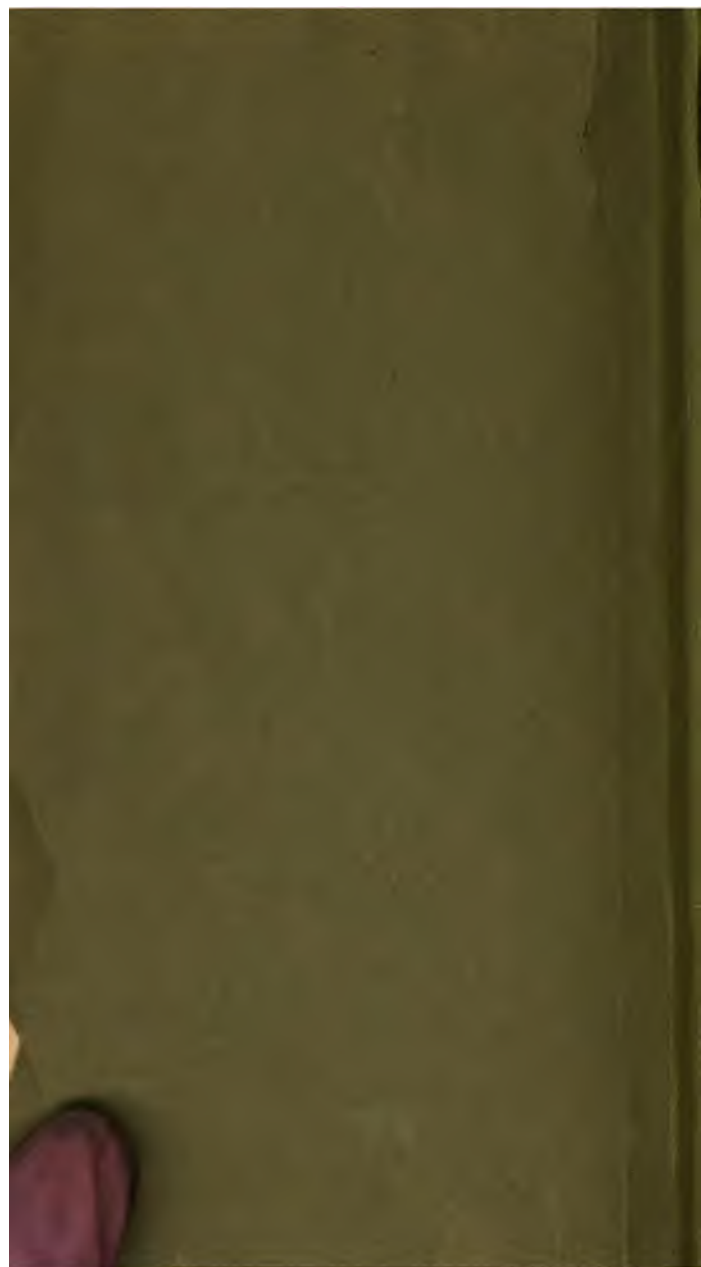
## FINIS.











JUL 22 1931

